

THE *Lord (Emmanuel)*
Famous History
OF
MONTELION
Knight of the ORACLE.

Son to the true Mirrour of Princes, the most Renowned King *PERSICLES* of *Affrica*.

SHEWING
His strange Birth, unfortunate Love, perilous
Adventures in Armes; and how he came to the
knowledge of his Parents.

Interlaced with much variety of pleasant and delightful Discourse.

LONDON:

Printed by E. Alsop, and Robert Wood, and are to be sold by
Francis Grove on Snow Hill, William Gilbertson in Gilt-Spur-
street, and Charles Tye on London Bridge.

1661.

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1651.

To the Readers, Health.

Gentlemen,



Our well tried favours have set me so far on fire in my further proceedings, that I, that hitherto followed the endeavours of *Pierce Plainesse*, seem now for your pleasure to become even a *Bott-fellow* prodigal, spending the sum of my Store to the uttermost so long as it lasts.

If you finde any crackt *Coyne* in these my liberal Expences, yet for *Fords* sake afford them sterling; and winking at small faules, excuse me to be mistaken, and so amongst Friends it may pass for my rant. I am not of the humour of the new singing *Taylor*, that for every new wrought Suit frames a new fashion; nor of their presumptuous Nature, that of themselves being but *Prains*, face out their attempts with Heroical words; but I alwayes the same, next ever forward to entreat, careful to request, and daily addicted devoutly to attend Humility. Against biting *Theons* Tooth I remain always patience-proof, and the rather, considering the singular sentence of one of the seven Sages, *viz.*

That even a man of understanding (if he be) praised, he is led thereby to a self-loved opinion of his own laudable parts, or as *Self-will* is, remaining on his high deserts, may seem an especial argument of no small folly: so likewise for being commended, to remain even *amort* with heavy cheer and drooping mind, figuring his sad looks like to the Anatomy of Death, is a plain proof of his scarcity of counsel, want of patience, (which *Philosophers* hold the Sovereignst virtue that belongs to the qualified indument of Mortality) and (which is worse) penury of Reason, *affectus temporare suos*. I propose not this gentle Reader, as if *Stoically* I regarded your judicious censure; but rather portray a *preludium*, how indifferently I can endure the detestable taunting Reports of the Envious: As for your ever

To the Reader.

garded judgements, I account it the sanctuary wherein my tried Sconce may finde refuge, the chief gress onely whereby feeble inventions ascendeth; the Coloss that supporteth my endeavours; yea, I reckon it all my being, all my essence, and all my good.

As therefore with a favourable smile, you ere while entertained *Parisinus* and *Parismenos*, my elder Off-springs, with so chearful an Aspect, now cast your looks on my *Montition*; whose forwardness to win the same, you shall perceive nothing inferior to the promptness of the former, although by Birth and course of time the younger. He cannot acquaint you with the wonders of Chivalry, with admirable Acts, and doubty deeds; supported alwayes with a fairy suffrage, as was *Ulysses* in his ten years venture by the aid of *PALLACE*. Your well wishing acceptance and kind conceit of him, is all the recompence I ask for my travel. As I wish no more, so I trust you will no less grant this, and make my endeavours prosperous; deny that, and leave me so unfortunate, as hopeles for ever of any good success: as you have been bountiful in giving the one, to my self will not rest ungrateful for the other; that both in one, and one in both, may not onely augment your loving pleasures, which I heartily wish, but also enrich my lasting content, which I hope you as courteously will:

Your Well-willer,

Emanuel Ford.



The famous History of
MONTELION
Knight of the ORACLE.

CHAP. I.

How *Pericles* was created King of *Assyria*, and travelled into *Persia* to the marriage of his Sister *Piera*, to the Emperors Son *De-loratus*; how he was enamoured of *Constantia*, and returned into *Assyria*.



An ancient King named *Pius* ruled the Land of *Assyria* in great peace, as well fortunate by the love of his Subjects, and other outward blessings, as with two late Children, a Son and a Daughter, that after his death should succeed in that Empire; and by reason Age was now so much grown upon him, he found himself wearied and unable to exercise the care that belonged to the Government of so mighty a Nation; also beholding in his Son more then ordinary gravity and so forward a minde to vertue, as that he might well commit a matter of such weight to his care, he determined to give himself to rest (which well agreed with his age) and therefore caused all the Nobles of the Land to be assembled. This done, and all set in Parliament, the old King uttered his minde; which was, to establish his Son *Pericles* in the Kingdom. The Pers having perfect knowledge of his manifold virtues, gave their general

consents, and so Pericles was within few dayes crowned King. Pius having effected this according to his mind, yet could not be at quiet till he had provided a match for his Daughter bestitting her estate: to further which good intent, it fortuned that Deloratus Dow and heir to the Emperoz of Persia, bearing of Pierces beauty, came into the Countrey of Assyria, and by long stay at last obtained her good will, and her Fathers consent, being assured to her in the presence of most of all his Peers: but because certain conditions were to be ratified by the King his Father, the solemnities of the Marriage was deferred until that was performed: and so that time should not be long protracted, which Deloratus with great earnestness hastened, Pericles with the consent of his Father, accompanied his Sister Piera into Persia, attended by a number of gallant knights, on that case conditions ratified and the Marriage performed, as also to do Deloratus Honour: After their departure, they within few dayes arrived in the Kingdom of Persia, where Pericles and Piera were most honourably entertained by the old Emperoz, Torissas, and the Conditions ratified.

The solemnization of the Marriage was deferred for certain dayes, for the Emperoz of Persia determined to have the same performed with great pomp, whether he invited many of his Neighbouring Kings: as of Arabia, Natolia, and Thessalia. The Persian knights made preparation to attend the Blingegroom in great Royalty. Pericles being in the Court, and hearing what Gallants were likely to be at the Wedding, prepared most rich Ornaments against that day, determining not to be the last in tryal of his valour at the tilt. The prest day being come, the Kings of Arabia, Natolia, Thessalia, and many other Princes of great estate arrived with them, and the City was filled with such a number of knights and Gallants, that there was scarce room therein to contain them.

To recite every particular of their entertainments, pastimes, riches, and what gallant Lutes were with them, would be tedious: but in brief, there was such Royal entertainment to be seen such Personages, and such a multitude of rare Weapons and fine Habits, as might every way please the Eye of a curious beholder.

The marriage being past, the sumptuous Banquets ended, and the States set to behold the List, the first that entred the List was a Persian Duke named Olimus, gallantly mounted, and a man of goodly proportion: After him followed the rest of the Persian Knights, who were all Challengers against all Strangers that came to make tryal of their valour: Next, came the adverse party, the foremost of which was Pericles, who appeared in richness according to the Dignity of his place, being King of so mighty a Country as Assyria, whose sight led the beholders to an admiration of his evident personations: After him followed Nonlus Prince of Batolfa, and after him a number of most gallant Knights, so richly adorned, as would have persuaded a Cowardly miscreant to have become valiant, whose particular descriptions I omit.

As Pericles was chief of the adverse part, and Duke Olimus of the Persians, so they two began the encounter, breaking of their staves with exceeding valour: But Olimus intending to win the chiefest Honour, so that he was esteemed the best Knight in Persia, had provided staves of tough wood, which would not part with an easie encounter, one of which he took, and ran the fourth time at Pericles, who unprovided for such an unexpected assault, was overturned, and his Steed tumbling fell upon him, that with the fall, for a time, he remained without sense: The Emperoz of Persia, and the rest, being much afraid that he was slain, came running from the Scaffold to take him up, carrying him forth of the Lists to be unaimed; amongst the rest, his Sister Piersa used her uttermost endeavour to recover him; with whom likewise was a gallant company of Ladies to assist her, but chiefly the Emperess of Persia and her youngest Daughter Constantia, as more regarding him by reason he was Brother to Piersa, and most of all lamented his mishap.

Pericles finding himself somewhat recovered, at the first opening his Eyes fixed them on Constantia, which by reason he was not fully revived, stood still fixed upon the first object, as it were with affectionate earnestness, which caused an exceeding blush to arise in her Cheeks.

But now seeing such a number about him, he was amazed

and half ashamed of his fall said, I beseech you leave me to myself and see the rest of the Tournament, for I have no harm; with that he started up on his feet, and fetching a deep sigh departed. They were all much glad at his safety, and so leaving him to be attended by two knights, they departed to the Scaffold, and again took their places to behold the rest of the Tournament.

Pericles was exceedingly vexed that he had received such a disgrace, and in the presence of such an honourable Assembly; most of all for that he understood Olmus intent; and presently buckling on one of his knights Armour, mounting himself entered the Lists again; by which time the Tilt was almost ended, and the Persian knights bear away the prize, but Pericles then unknown stood ready at the Races end for the next Encounter, against whom a Persian knight ran, but so far to his disgrace, that he tumbled with his heels upward; with that every one began to wonder who he should be, and the people gave an exceeding shout; then another Persian met with him, whose Fortune was much like the former; for his head tumbling with the force of the encounter, they both fell down. A knight of Persia, who that day had won great honour by his valour seeing that, would needs be the next to meet him, thinking to revenge his Country mans disgrace; but at the first Race they could not perform it, for they pass'd by without any other odds, but breaking their Staves most gallantly, and running again, the Persians loss was so bad that he was overthrown. By this time the day was ended, and the Judges ready to depart, but Olmus entreated that he might break one staff with the stranger, which they granted. Pericles well knew him, resolutely determining to give or take the fall, both of them met with such terror that the Earth seemed to shake. And Olmus notwithstanding his great strength, was by Pericles overthrown to save his honour and requite his discourtesy. With that the people gave such shouts, as made all the Palace ring with the sound, and Pericles discovered himself, which made every one rejoice and wonder at his valour.

Pericles being unarmed, accompanied the Emperor of Per-

lia, the King of Natolia, and the rest having that day won such honour, as made him more highly esteemed; and coming to salute his Sister Piera, he suddenly espied Constantia, thinking he had before seen that sweet countenance, but he could not remember where; which cast him into such a deep study that he almost forgot himself. After he had saluted the rest, he came to Constantia; to whom he said: Fair Lady, either I have beheld your beauty and that sweet countenance in some other Country, or in some Vision, for my mind persuadeth me that I should perfectly know you; for I am sure this is not the first time I have seen you, which makes me thus bold to demand of whence you are, if it be not offensive unto you. Sir, (replied Constantia) it may be I am but an imperfect shadow of her you so perfectly remember, for until this day I never saw you; which maketh me suppose you do but take occasion of course to commend me, that deserve no such matter; neither shall it offend me, nor I deny to shew my birth; being Daughter to the Emperour of Persia, but for many years brought up in Arabia.ardon my boldness (qu. Pericles) for I would not offend you; neither do I think you a shadow, but a perfect substance, and not to resemble any but your self; for there can be no beauty that excels yours, which mine Eyes before this time have beheld, or else Nature it self hath imprinted in my heart an essential image of devotion therto, which persuades me to this boldness; therefore I humbly desire you not to misconceive me, nor esteem me of so rude a disposition as to speak otherwise then my heart thinks, and to account of me as one that earnestly desires to be better acquainted with you, and will endeavour to make you amends for any offence given, offering myself, and all that is mine, to be at your disposition: which said he left off further speech, for he saw others attend to hear what he said.

At night Constantia being in her private Chamber, called to remembrance Pericles speeches, marvelling why he should say, he had before that seen her, which she knew could not be; but remembering how earnestly he beheld her that day, when he was lately revived from his trance, she thought that might breed such a persuasion in him, which was to know: but that she called to

minde his comelinesse, valour, estate, and courtlesse, which she had before noted; all which remembrances made her so much forget all other thoughts, that a great part of the night was overpast; and after she had restved her senses, she felt such an alteration that all the night she could not rest, delighting in nothing more then to remember him. The like did Pericles, for her beauty and other outward graces had so pierced his heart that he was enthralled to her love, and so resolved to win it.

Early the next morning he got up seeking all occasions to speak with her again, but was disappointed all the forenoon, for the by reason of her little rest in the night, kept her Chamber, and after Dinner accompanied the Queen her Mother and other Ladies, whereby he was that day disappointed: The next morning likewise he arose, studying how to come to her speech; for his affection was so great, as no thought contented him so well as her remembrance: But before he could to bring pass what he most desired, there arrived Messengers from Assyria, certifying him that his Father was dead, and that their ancient enemy the King of Armenia, had entered the Land, and destroyed many of his Subjects, desiring him in all haste to return for in his absence the Assyrians seemed like men without courage.

Pericles hearing this unexpected News, was exceedingly afflicted both with desire to save his Country, and also to prosecute his love; the one perswading him to stay, the other to hasten his departure, the one being as dear to him as his life, the other as dear as life, Country, and all; for without obtaining of that, he thought he could not live, being so much perplexed that he could not resolve what to do: At last the special regard of his Country overcame his heart, and restved him with a manly courage to revenge, so that he commanded all things to be prepared for his sudden departure; and going to his Chamber he got Pen and Ink, and writt as followeth.

To the most fairest *Constantia*.

Most beloved *Constantia*, though my Countries preservation occasioneth my sudden departure, yet my love to your person importuneth me to sollicite your gentle Eare with these rude Lines: I cannot with colourable phrases shadow

perfect meaning; nor with painted Eloquence decipher my true love; but in the truest sort manifest my constant affection to your vertues, which unless you grace with some favour will be my endless torments; I have long desired to make the same manifest unto you, but I was still disappointed, and my unexpected departure hath now shut me from your presence, whereby I shall live in continual care. Notwithstanding I humbly beseech you in my unwilling absence, to esteem me your faithful and true devoted Servant, and one that hath vowed himself ever to be yours, whose welfare consisteth in your courtesie, the hope whereof shall preserve my life until my return, which my constant love will cause me to hasten; desiring you, though I be absent, not to forget me, nor for my little deserts to reject me, but let me be so much bound to your vertues, as to conceive well of me, so shall my joyes be lengthened, my unhappy life preserved, and my good will and constant loyalty highly rewarded: So with sorrow I take my leave.

Yours inseparably, *Pierres*.
Having writ this Letter, he found out his sister *Piera*, to whom he said: Dear Sister, the Torments that came upon my departure come so suddenly, as that I cannot stand long to converse with you; therefore for that I build upon the assurance of your love, secretlie, and assistance, I will unfold to you the secrets of my heart, and that which none but your self shall know. So it is, that Constantiaes beauty hath enamoured my eyes, and I remain so much enthralled thereto, that unless she pity me, I am but call away; I desire your assistance hereto, whereby you may preserve my life: I have writ this Letter unto her, which I desire you to deliver, and wishal to use such speeches in my behalf, as shall turn her to your wisdom; for I assure you unless at my return, which shall be shortly, I find her favourable, my sorrows will shorten my dayes; then good Sister shew your love to me in this. *Piera* promised her utmost assistance, and so with many tears on each side they parted.

The Petors of his departure was soon spread throug the whole Court, and likewise came to Constantiaes hearing, who left her Chamber and got into her Mothers company, where she thought to have a sight of him, which some small sparks of love that were

kindled in her tender Breast, provoked her unto. After all farewells were past, he espied her in company with other Ladies, to whom he came, and among the rest of them all onely took his leave of her with a sweet kiss, breathing forth a bitter sigh at the parting, which every one noted, some taking the same in disdain, and others marvelling that he regarded her above them all, which made the blood rise in Constantiaes Cheeks and the water swell in her Eyes.

CHAP. II.

How Helion Prince of Arabia, crost the love between *Pericles* and *Constantia*; Of a Battle fought between *Pericles* and the King of *Armenia*, and how disguising himself he travelled into *Persia*, and how he discovered himself to *Constantia*.



His departure caused a sadness throughout the Court, for indeed he was the beauty thereof, so excellent was his person, and so commendable his qualities. *Piera* betaking her self to her Chamber lamented his absence with private tears, until *Deloratus* found her out, and caused her with his conformable speeches, to give over that grief. The King of *Natolia* likewise with most of the Nobles and Knights that came to the solemnization of the Wedding, were departed, except Prince *Helion* went to the King of *Arabia*, the occasion of whose stay, was to crave *Constantia* in marriage, assuring himself of her love, by reason of the familiarity that had been betwixt them in his Fathers Court, which indeed by her former kindness he might be in some assurance of, though not by any promise she had made him; which motion he made to the Emperor of *Persia*, who esteeming so honourably of him regarding his birth, and most of all desiring to be allied to the Arabian King, gave his consent; which was fully concluded and agreed upon before it came to *Constantiaes* knowledge.

Prince *Helion* having this assurance, with a merry heart sought out *Constantia*, intending to reveal the same to her, and according to his wonted kind of familiarity, began to greet her;

in whom he found such an alteration that he wondered thereat, saying: My dear Constantia, this unexpected unkindness in you, whom I esteem as my most chosen friend maketh me abash; whereas I had thought to have enjoyed your love without interruption: Upon confidence of your civility, I have moved your Fathers consent to our marriage; who hath yielded thereto; then I beseech you darken not both yours and my joyes with these misty Clouds of care, which will fill my heart with sorrow, but rather increase your kindness to both mine and your comfort.

Constantias countenance being moved by the angry motions of her heart, caused by his speeches, that she had much ado to refrain from shedding tears; yet with a Colour as red as Scarlet, she gave him this answer. My dear Helion, if that be true which you tell me, I cannot chuse but wonder at your folly, that would without assurance of my love make such a motion; think you my affections are to be limited according to your disposition; for my part I disclaim such interest, and renounce such affection; for I never intended any such matter; nor ebb'd did you demand the same; then my Lord, be you satisfied for this, for I never did, nor will give my consent.

Helion hearing her answer was ripe on the head, being stricken with such grief that he could not tell what to say; but at last replied: Constantia, I confess I have done you wrong; in abridging so far without your consent; but yet so that I have not thereby dishonoured your name, or otherwise injured you; I humbly crave pardon, desiring you to ratify that which I have by your former civility assured my self of; and let not my overboldness alienate any part of your good will, for you know that my affections have remain'd indubitably constant many years, and I have attended your liking with such constancy, as you may be resolutely assured of my truth; then I beseech you be not displeased with me, but according to your wonted kindness, accept me into your favours. My Lord (replied she) I cannot deny but that your good will hath exceeded my desires; for which I thank you; now withal, that I have also esteem'd you, which I like will I would have done still, but now that opinion is altered; neither can I be forc'd to continue well of him that would do me such manifest

manifest injury as you have done; therefore I may be contented with that labour you have had, for my affections are otherwise employed, and my heart utterly disagreeing to the motion you have made. With that she espied Piera in the Garden going towards her, to whom she went down, saluting her most kindly. Piera thought now to have delivered her Brothers Letter, but by reason there were others in the company, she could not then perform it. After a while they left each other, Piera returning to her Chamber, and Constantia to a secret place of the Garden, where she uttered these meditations: What contractions and inquietudes are these that possess the Center of my heart? What inconveniences am I like to run into? And how shall I avoid blame for the one, and reap content by the other? How unkindly hath Prince Helion used me to make this motion to my Father, whose disposition must not be crossed without hazard of much disquiet. My kindness to him hath caused this overfond conceit of himself, and brought me into much trouble: I could have loved him before I came to the sight of Pericles, whose gifts are so far exceeding his, that whereas my heart lov'd him, the thought of that love is now most grievous; wherein I may do my self great wrong, for in hope of his affection, I refuse Helions love, which may deprive me of both, purchase my Fathers heavy displeasure and my own perpetual discontent. Revolving a chaine of these and such like confused cogitations which overcame her senses with their ambiguity, in a heavy and discontented vain she went to her Chamber, thinking there to consider of some very particular at full; where she found Piera all alone, staying her coming in, who soon espied that Constantia had wept, whereupon she took occasion to say as followeth. My beloved Sister, I am sorry to see you in this heavy and sad vain, always finding you either sad or weeping, which maketh me wonder, and desire to know the cause, as one willing in any sort to counsel you, and comfort you with my uttermost assistance: I have of purpose entered your Chamber to have some conference in private with you, being a Messenger sent to you by my Brother Pericles, who I know loveth you dearly, who by me humbly commendeth himself unto you, being sorry that his sudden departure was such that

that he could not before, I pray you that service you do deserve: withal he desires I pray you this Letter. Constan-
cia without making any other thing of the Letter and read the same,
which when she had done, she said: Dear Sister, I thank you
for taking this pains to come to me, and not rather to have sent
for me that rest at your command: And also I thank that wor-
thy King Pericles that he will vouchsafe me that undeserved fa-
vour as to esteem well of my unworthiness, to whom I am bound
in all honourable respect: What how unfit am I to entertain love
your self would judge, if you knew my estate, which upon as-
surance of your secrecie I will unfold: Since Helion vainly pre-
suming he was assured of my favour, hath asked my Fathers
counsel to a marriage betwixt him and me, which he hath granted
unto, but the Deavens can testifie it is disagreeing to my heart,
and altogether without my consent, which he shall never attain
what danger soever I incur thereby, which if Pericles did under-
stand, would soon alter his mind: therefore it is best for his quiet
not to place his reflections on me so unworthy, but let me alone to
endure the affliction that is like to ensue.

I know (quoth Piera) that my Brothers love is so constant,
that nothing can alter the same, which he related to me at large,
which makes me testifie the assurance thereof, which would you
but accept of, or give me some comfortable hopes in his absence,
I should think my self bound to you for ever, and to have done him
a great pleasure, for nothing but the happy tidings of your favour
can comfort him. The Emperour will not compel you to marry
Helion when he understands that you are otherwise bent, for that
were cruelty, and I think Helion himself beareth not so disho-
nourable a mind, as to seek your love by constraint for that were
inhumanity; but would you yield to like of my Brothers love,
who is every way as good as the Prince of Arabia, the know-
ledge thereof would soon make him return to ask your Fathers
consent, which may peradventure stand as well affected to him as
to Prince Helion. Ay me (saith Constanica) Sister, I need not
doubt to reveal my secrets to you, that I know for Pericles sake
will conceal them. I confess without further circumstances that
I love that noble King Pericles, which is the cause of this trouble
quiet; neither did my fancy ever yield the least conceit of liking

Helions love, which I take to be rather grounded upon common familiarity than pretence of marriage; therefore now that you are assured of that which you request, I beseech you not to conceive amiss of my rash confession, nor esteem my love light because of so short continuance, for it is immovable; but rather comfort my poor disquieted heart with your counsel, how to avoid these inconveniences: And if that worthy King be so affected towards me as your Speeches and this Letter affirms, I would wish his return might be speedy, otherwise, my sorrows will be endless; for I know my Fathers Nature to be such, that what sooner he will have must be performed, though Equity would perform the contrary. Grieve not so much, queth Piera, with premeditated conceit of fear, which peradventure will never come to pass: I will presently send Messengers to my Brother, who shall carry such News as will comfort his heart, and cause his speedy return; in the mean time I will make Deloratus acquainted with Helions practice, not Pericles love, who shall persuade all that may be, not to consent to marry you against your will. Be then of good comfort, and for assurance of Pericles loyalty, let no fear disquiet your senses or impair your health, for things now at the worst may have a good end: These speeches ended they departed.

All this while Helion was meditating how to hasten the marriage; but most of all to find the cause of Constantias discontent, which he thought was aggravated against him by some good conceit which she had lately entertained of some other then himself, which made him prosecute the same with more ferdency, dealing so effectual with the Emperoz, that he swore Constantia should be ruled by him, and thereupon the next day sent for her, to whom he said: Daughter, I think it is not unknown to you, that I have promised you in marriage to Prince Helion, one that is every way worthy to match with you, both for nobleness of birth, vertuous qualities, and comeliness of person; withal, I am given to understand, that you like not my choice, nor esteem my command, which if you neglect, you shall not only displease me, but also lose my labour for ever: for as you are mine, I purpose to dispose of you; but if you refuse my counsel, refuse me too, for I will not regard a disobedient Child: The manifold reasons I could allegance

that perswade me to the confirmation of this Contract, are of such weight as I might seem careless of your welfare, and your self envious of your own good to deny them; therefore let me know your answer.

Constantia well knew that if she denied, he would be offended, and his sorrowward Nature was so much disposed to wrath, that before she could speak, she shook with fear; yet resolving to hazard the worst, humbling her self upon her knee, she made this answer: My reverend duty to you, most loving Father, perswadeth my consent to fulfil your command, though my love binds me to the contrary, that I stand perplext between two extremes; the one fearing to offend you, the other to procure my everlasting discontent; for in refusing to do according to your will, I shall incur your indignation, and in performing the same my everlasting sorrow, for as yet my heart could never yield to love that worthy Prince, who is far too worthy to be matcht with me; most humbly beseeching you to consider that forced love never breeds content but disgustet, which with Helion will be my portion, therefore I beseech you revoke your determination.

As it even so, quoth he, Shall my command be counterbalanced by your peevish conceit? Is this the regard you give to my good will? Are you wiser then I, or are you willing to displease me? Shall my will stand at your direction? Is this the duty you owe to your Father? O, fear you no more to offend me, Woe I so carefully brought you up, and tenderly regarded you for this, Therefore never come in my sight, for I will not esteem thee as a Child, but as a Bastard: And withal, I hold that if thou dost not yield to marry him, use him kindly, and apply thy debotions to his liking, I will use thee in such sort that all Persia shall lament thy case. Having given her this bitter repast, he departed, leaving her weeping the Fountains of her Eyes dry, washing her hands, and like one in a dead France overcome with grief, cast upon the earth: The first that entered the Room was Helion, who seeing her in that agony, took her by the hand to have raised her from the ground: but she refusing his help, uttered these speeches: Until this time, I always esteemed honourably of you, but now my good opinion is altered, for that you should seek my torment: My Father hath given me charge to marry with you,

which I must against my heart fulfil ; but be assured never to possess my love, for that I have bequeathed to another, shely my outward parts may be yours, but my inward affections shall continually esteem you as the enely occasioner of my endless miseries ; with that she rose from the ground and departed, leaving him there as one astonish'd.

Piera made Constantiaes estate known to Deloratus, who so far as he durst, perswaded her Father not to constrain her to marry the Prince : But such wilfulness possess him, that the more they intreated him, the more contrarious he was, and therefore appointed the day for the Marriage to be within two months, and desiring the King of Arabiaes consent, he sent Ambassadors to that effect.

Piera hearing this, presently sent Messengers into Assyria, to certify Pericles of all that had hapned, and withal writ a Letter which contained the whole sum of Constantiaes consent to his love ; who with all diligence hastned until they arriv'd there, being presently conducted in to his presence : After he had most kindly embrac'd them, he demanded how Piera did, and what Message they had brought from her ? Whereupon they deliver'd the Letters they had brought ; which when he had read, he commanded his knights to give the Messengers honourable entertainment, and departed to his Tent, one way so much comforted, and another way so deep troubled, that he sat down in a study, not knowing what to resolve upon.

When he had a long space meditated with what contrarieties his Fortunes were cross ; the danger his Country was in, how likely he was to lose Constantia, and how difficult to attempt her possession, and many others, at last he thought his life should be nothing without her love, and therefore he fully resolv'd to hazard the same to attain it, but it seem'd impossible which way to accomplish the same : For first, the Armenians war hazarded his Kingdom, whom he could not suddenly expel : Next, to attempt to win her by force, that could not be, for the Persian was too mighty : Lastly, delay might breed a greater mischief then all the rest, that calling unto him two of his chiefeest Nobles the one named Parenus a wise Counsellor, the other Thureus a noble Warrior, he utter'd his mind to them, saying : I have

sent for you, as the men I most respect and trust, being determined to commit to your charge the government of my Kingdom, for that weighty business, and such as concerns my everlasting welfare, must for a season withdraw me: And for that I am fully assured of your loyalty, I will use no exhortation to persuade you thereto, but order the same in this sort: Thureus resembling me much, both in proportion and countenance, shall in my absence take my room, whom the people will assuredly take to be my self, and so govern them with more ease, and you Pare-nus by your wisdom order all things according thereto. Thus you know my mind, which I doubt not but you will accomplish in every respect according to my desire. They first entreated him not to depart; but when they saw nothing could prevail, they swore they would faithfully execute what he had given them in charge; and likewise told them that he would depart within 3 days, which he deferred so long by reason the second day the Armenians and Assyrians should meet: Having ended his conference with them, he returned to the Messengers that came from Persia, sending Letters to Piera which gave her knowledge that he would be there suddenly.

The prefixed day for the Battle was now come, and both Armies met, betwixt whom there was a terrible fight, and many thousands on both sides were slain: The Armenians greedy of their enemies overthrow, followed them so eagerly that they began to sound a Retreat; Persicles seeing that, left the place of his government and with his Lance ready couched, met an Armenian Duke so full that he pierced the same quite through his body, then drawing his Sword with the same he slew the next, and after him wounded others, that within a while he made such slaughter amongst them that they avoided the place of his fight, and thought themselves best that were furthest off him. Thus valourously did he pursue them till he was unawares in the midst of their Army, which advantage the King of Armenia espyed, and thinking his life within his power, ran at him with a Lance, pointed with flael, but it mist him, and Persicles seeing him met so full with the Point of his Sword against his Breast, that had not his Stedfastness, he had broken his back, with that the Armenians assailed him round about with such unequal odds, be-

ing a multitude to one, that sometimes they were thrust so near upon him in the throng that they swayed him up and down; those that came next him died by his sword, their dead bodies falling down between his steeds legs, which made him lay about with such fury, that he soon made them give way. In the mean time, whilst the most part of the Battle were bent to destroy him, the Assyrians had made such a slaughter amongst the Bat-wings of the Army, that most of them were slain, and the rest fled. Thureus fearing Pericles harm, for that he missed him, with his followers soon found him out, and by that means rescued him from the multitude, who had unhorsed him, being constrained to fight on foot, being scarce able to withstand himself from stumbling on the dead Carcasses of those whom he had slain. Thureus soon got himself remounted, and then both of them pursued their enemies so fiercely, that they began to flee, and had not the day then ended, they had been all destroyed, which caused Pericles to sound a Retreat, and betake him to his Tent, having that day done such deeds at Armes as made both his own Subjects and the Armenians admire him.

Early the next morning word was brought him, that his enemies were all fled, and not any of them to be found in the Camp, having left all their Riches behind them: which much rejoiced Pericles to hear, for that they should be no hinderance to his journey, and commanded his Souldiers to take the Spoil and bury the dead: And because he had received never a Mortal wound he determined the next day to depart, which he acquainted Pareus and Thureus withal, requesting them not to discover his absence till his return.

Having ordered every thing according to his mind, the next morning he departed, attyng himself like a Palmer, with a Staff in his hand, which disguise shadowed him from knowledge, that he past his own Court Gates undescrised, which assured him that if his own Subjects and Servants knew him not, much less would Strangers, that he passed without fear of being discovered. In this sort did he travel, thinking it no penance to take pains to find out his Love, until he arrived in Persia, yet not knowing which way to accomplish his intent, or come to speech either of Piers or Constantia, for he was a stranger, being banish-

to enter the Court Gates, where he staid attending his good fortune some three dayes; but as far from hopes then as at his first coming, that he was so tormented in his thoughts, that he could not tell what to do: The next day he heard that the King should go forth on Hunting, which made him presently suppose (for that the Park was so near the Court) the Ladies likewise would see the pastime, hoping by some means or other to give one of them knowledge of his arrival, that he did write a Letter, the Contents thereof, were these.

To Constantia or Piera.

These I write to either of you, my Fortune being doubtful to whom I should deliver this: The Palmer that delivered this Letter is *Pericles*, that desireth to speak with one of you; for he saith you are both as dear to him as his own Soul: Attending a happy hour I end.

Yours, Pericles.

The next day according to his hopes, the King and Queen Dela, Piera, Helion, and Constantia, and many others came forth, whom *Pericles* soon espied, and well noting Constantia's countenance perceived the same to be darkned, as if she had been fully possessed with discontent, who coming near him (for he stood so as they must pass by him) casting her eyes upon him, beheld him so earnestly that she almost forgot her self, feeling her heart to throbb with an wonted motion, that she let fall her rich Scarf, most curiously embroidered, which occasion *Pericles* soon espied, as waiting such an opportunity, took up the Scarf, and with a great reverence gave it her, conveying the Letter closely therein that he soon espied the same, wherewith her heart began to pant, and viewing the Supercription, found it directed to her or Piera, that closely she put the same in her Bosom, least Helion or any else should espye it, till she could find opportunity to read it. By this time the Game was roared, and all but the slowest followed the pastime with earnestness, which she beholding, withdrew to her self with one of her Ladies, and read the Letter, the which

affected her heart with joy and fear, that sometimes her heart leapt with the one, and her eyes stood ready to overflow with tears with the other, presently following the company until she overtook Piera, to whom she said: Sister, did not you behold the Palmer that stood in the way as we came by the Palace wall? Des (quoth she) and do not you know him, said Constantia; it is your Brother Pericles.

With that she smiled, saying: How can that be, or what maketh you think so? With that she pulled out the Letter, and had her read it; which when she had done, she said: Constantia he is worthy to be kindly used, having travelled so far on foot to see us. Des (quoth Constantia) how may we come to speak with him? Or how may we give him that welcome his worthiness deserbeth, that for my unworthy self hath undertaken to hazard his Royal person in travel? Let me alone (quoth Piera) and the better to avoid suspicion, use Helion somewhat more kindly then heretofore you have done, that his mind may be void of jealousy, for I perceive when you come in any place or company he hath a vigilant eye over you.

And calling to her a Damself named Dela, one that was privy to all her secret counsels, to whom she said: Go thy way, and find out the Palmer that thou sawest as we came, for it is Pericles, conduct him into my Chamber, where let him stay till I return; and if any ask thee what he is, tell them, he is of Assyria, and bringeth me news from the King my Brother.

Dela hasted and soon found him out, reverently saluting him, and called him by his name, which made him marvel that she knew him, until she delivered her Message, which he was ready to fulfil as the only thing he desired: And having brought him into the Court, which she did without contradiction, she returned to certify her Mistress thereof, whom she met with Constantia, and some few before the rest, returning to the Court, being desirous to see Pericles, who now entering the Palace, were soon espied of him, which affected his heart with such content as it seemed to Rattle his senses.

Constantia was possessed likewise with such contrarious passions sometimes of Fear, Joy, Wishfulness, Desire, and modest Love, that her heart seemed to dissolve, and all the Artifices

hard by the house, where Pisor said: My Lord, I have a Tragick discourse to reveal; that maketh my heart melt to think thereof, which I would it had not been my ill fortune to have brought you News of.

At my coming into Assyria, I pass many miles before I found an Assyrian to converse withal; for the Towns and Villages which before were repleat with flocks of inhabitants, were now consumed by fire, and not a house standing alone but was spoiled, and the people from their dwellings fled away, which caused me to make the more haste, hoping that all was not destroyed; and coming now near the Court, in my way I found the bodies of the Assyrians lying dead and strewn upon the earth as if some battle had been lately fought in that place, those which lay dead seeming to have fled to save their lives.

And the farther I pass, the more the number increased, which I followed so long, that I was perswaded those that destroyed them were not far off, but yet went so far before me that I could not overtake them, for the bodies of some were not yet cold, and others lay struggling to overcome death; wherewith I was so amazed, that I set spurs to my horse sides, and rode with all the haste I could, until at last I espied a mighty Army of Soldiers right before me upon the Mount Silo, whose multitude seemed to be innumerable; near unto which I was no sooner come, but I espied an Assyrian grievously wounded, to whom I drew nigh, and soon knew him to be Parenus, and discovering my self to him desired him to tell me what Treason had brought him to that dangerous estate, with that he knowing me, said:

Pisor, such misery is befallen to us Assyrians, as we shall be a reproach and scandal to all the World, which I would repeat, but before I can make an end Death will stop my speech; therefore tell me how my Lady Piera fareth.

Noble Duke (said I) He is in good health and in great prosperity. I rejoyce thereat (quoth he) though I have otherwise everlasting cause to sorrow; For our Sovereign Lord the King after he had put the Armenians to flight, was very desirous upon some occasion (as yet unknown) to leave the Court in his absence committing the Government thereof to my unhappy self and the Noble Knight Thureus, which we performed with

great quiet, until Duke Oretus, one that never was true to the State, hearing of the Kings departure, which he could by no means conceal, raised a false report that he had murdered the King; whiled Rumor moved the common people to such disquiet, that they began to rebel, which he perceiving, aiming thereby to win the Crown, gathered a great multitude of them together, with pretence of revenge against us; which when we heard of, with all speed we could possible, we gathered up men for our defence; but so eager were the multitudes to our destruction, together with Oretus his persuasions, that before we were any way able to resist them, they set upon us, and shed a great deal of their own Countrey-mens blood, that stood in our defence, and constrained us to draw back our Forces within the City.

The King of Armenia hearing of this Rebellion, with great speed brought a mighty Army into this Land, destroying all that came in his way, burning both Towns and Cities, and destroying the Common people with an exceeding great slaughter. Oretus hearing this, was struck with such terror, that he fled, leaving his confederate Rebels to be destroyed by the Enemy, which caused us by a Herald to demand, whether they would submit themselves to us, or not, or by their Treason to see their Countreys ruine. With that they yielded, and we gathered all our Forces together to resist the Enemy, with whom we fought three great Battles, and in the same lost above thirty thousand Assyrians, being driven to flight. This day again gathering head to resist them, and being too few in number, in respect of their strength and multitude, you see how our bodies lie mangled upon the earth, my self being (I think) the last that lieth to tell this News; for the noble Thureus is already slain, whose deeds of valour would contain a great Volume, which News when our King hears, it will no doubt cut off his vertuous life with sorrow, my greatest grief being that I cannot bear of his safety before my death.

My Lord (said I) our gracious King is living, and in good health in Persia, who sent me unto your Honour and Thureus with a Message, which I need not now unfold. Yes, good Pison (said he) let me hear my Lords Message, that I may thereby know

together I was in his favour or no; with that I told him the cause of my coming, which when he had heard, such a passion of discontent overcame his vital spirits, that with many bitter groans he gave up the Ghost. When I saw there was no way for his recovery, I departed to enquire what might be the remedy made, who by that time the day was ended had vanquished the Assyrian Forces, and took the City and most of the Nobility prisoners: I stayed four dayes hiding me secretly to bring you certain News, which is this: The King of Armenia compelled the Noblemen to swear Allegiance to Palian his Eldest Son, whom he hath Crowned King in Assyria, and left a mighty Army for his defence. When I understood this, I returned to certify your Majesty thereof.

CHAP. VII.

How *Pericles* hearing the News by *Pisor* departed into a solitary place, which caused the unfortunate separation betwixt him and *Constantia*, who in great sorrow wandring to seek him, was found by *Helion*, and caried into *Arabia*; of the sorrowes *Pericles* endured for her absence: How *Pisor* became Frantick.



Pericles heart was overcome with such sorrows to hear *Pisors* heavy news, that he had much ado to contain himself from extreame madnes, that he minded a while to witheraw himself to utter his plaints in those solitary walks, but seeing *Pisor* would to him, desired him to return to the *Shepherds* house, and in no case to acquaint *Constantia* with these misfortunes; but if he asked for him, he would tell her he would come presently. *Pisor* being departed, he sought for the most unfrequented place in the wood, wandring long in that discontent, but could find none agreeable to his mind, not knowing where he went, or what he intended, his senses being dulled with that passionate vexation, continuing so long therein, that he spent longer time in seeking out a place of rest, then he was wont, which turned to his greater woe, as other warns it tell out, for *Constantia* in telling that he was to come, and nothing *Pisors*

darkened countenance, supposed some ill news to be the cause, and finding occasion fit, thought to find her late in the midst of his Dumps, and with her amiable presence to comfort him; so stealing from the Cottage into the Wood where Pisor told her that he had left him, she wandered up and down a great while, not finding him, which made her wonder; sometimes calling him, but not by his right name, lest any should hear her: And finding that means to prevail nothing, she began to enter into many doubtful thoughts: Sometimes calling his loyalty in question, then again reproving her fancy for entering into suspicion of him, then thinking some ill news was befall in Assyria, which might drive him into a careless desperation, fearing that some of the Persian Knights had met him, and finding some likelihood of suspicion in him, had carried him to the King her Father. These meditations possess her mind so long, and wrote such terror in her fancies, that she feared like one that had been possessed with the truth that it was so.

Thus did they both continue the most part of that day, she seeking him, and he oppressed with care, not remembering that it was time to return home, yet both of them directing their steps a contrary way, that they met not, but wandered away from another: At last he remembered where he was, how long he had been absent, and what care she would take for his absence, which caused him with as much speed to haste back, as with earnestness he had wandered up and down; which before he could attain it grew towards night.

Pisor likewise marvelling at his long stay, and her sudden departure, fearing some ill might betide him, and some extraordinary care oppress her, left the Cottage to find him, and if he could find her, to direct her to the place where he left him.

When Persicles found them both absent, he marvelled thereat, enquiring of the old woman when they departed; who told him, that Constantia went out first, and he after her: which made him think that she missing him so long, might go to seek him, and Pisor followed her, thinking to direct her lest she would wander astray (as she might well do) in those unfrequented places. But when he had a long time continued in those Dumps, and saw neither of them returned, he began to enter into many mis-doubts,

such as proceed from the anguished motions of discomposed cogitations, being fearful to depart from thence again, lest he might so miss them.

Pisfor being entred the Wood, came to the place where he had left Pericles, but could neither find him there nor Constantia, which made him wander up and down so long that he was weary. At last he came to a shady place, and laying himself down to rest, he cast up his eyes and espied most beautiful Fruit upon a Tree hanging right over his head, the sight whereof pleased him so well, that plucking some of the same he found the taste pleasant; which caused him to eat many of them, which made him presently fall into a deadly sleep. The name of this Fruit is called *Dylos*, the nature whereof is, to procure those that taste it, first to sleep for the space of four and twenty hours, and after to become frantick for the space of three months, which hindered Pisfor from returning.

When Pericles had stayed so long expecting their coming, until it began to be dark, he again went out, telling the Shepherd that he was going to seek them, cruel Fortune directing his steps unto the place where Pisfor lay sleeping, whom when he beheld, and neither by calling or any other means could awaken, a deadly fear possess his fancy that some furious Beast had slain him, and either devoured Constantia, or pursued her, flying from him; which caused him like a mad man to draw forth Pisfors sword, running up and down to seek that which was not there to be found.

Constantia by this time was wandered so far in search of Pericles, that she could by no means tell which way to go back again, but was constrained all that night to wander up and down with hope to have returned; but contrary to her thoughts, went another way, her fear and care causing her to make the more speed, that being wearied with travel, coming to the entrance of the Wood she sat down upon a Bank, and after she had bewailed her miserable estate, and wearied her senses with sorrow as she had her body with travel, fell asleep.

Now it fell out that Holon the day before had taken the leave of the Emperor of Persia to travel into Arabia, and that night lay at Selinas fathers, causing her to be attended by his Da-

naments that mourning carried her into Arabia, intending there to make her his Wife, and by misfortune passed by the place where Constantia lay fast asleep: Some of his Followers soon espied her and shew'd her to Helion; Selia likewise seeing her, presently told Helion, that her apparel was either the same which Constantiaes Gentlewoman took from her in the Persian Court, or so like it she could not tell one from the other. Helion rode to her and awaked her; by his former disposition and her countenance, which was still in his remembrance, he perfectly knew her, and she at the first sight knew him, which amazed her senses with deadly fear: To whom he said, my dear Constantia, what hath caused you this discourtesy to reject my love, and leave the Persian Court to endure this hard fortune, so much disagreeing to your estate; yet at length I beseech you accept of my love, and go with me into Arabia.

Leave off your dissembling speeches (saith Constantia) and let me alone; for I had rather all my life live on this cold earth, then live at ease with you. With that she would have left him, but he commanded his Servants by force to take her into the Coach, and to go along with him into Arabia, not letting any know what she was but Selia.

When Constantia saw that of force she must needs go, she uttered such plaints, and made such sorrowful exclamations, that those that guard'd her thought she would have fallen mad, and though they neither knew her, nor her cause of sorrow, yet in their hearts they pitied her.

Whom we will leave fully possess'd with the uttermost extremity of anguish, onwards towards Arabia, the place she most of all hated, to speak of Pericles, who in a mad fury having run up and down a long time in the Wood, again returned to the Shepherd's house, to see if Constantia were not yet come, but there he found onely the Shepherd and his Wife in great care, waiting his return; who spying the sword in his hand, and his face and hands in many places bloody, which was with the scratches he had receiv'd in the dark Wood, were ready to fly from him for fear, but he mildly demanded if Constantia were come back, who told him they saw her not. Alas (saith he) poor Lady, I fear she is devour'd by some merciless Beast; for I found

Pisces lying dead in the Wood, which affrighteth me with such fear of her mishap that I know not what to do, nor which way to go in her search.

My Lord (saith the Shepherd) I can assure you there doth no wild Beast haunt this Wood, for then could not my Flocks feed in quiet, of which I have not lost one Lamb by any casualty; but rather I think my Lady missing you all the day, is gone so far into the Wood that she cannot return, nor you finde her, whom I do not doubt but to find in the morning; neither is he dead, but I believe hath tasted some of our unlucky Fruit called Apples, that hath cast him into a dead sleep, and after that he will be Frankish for a certain space.

Pericles was much comforted with the Shepherds speeches, yet not withstanding left him, and all that night wandered up and down the Wood to find her, but he spent his labour in vain, neither that night nor the next day finding her, which awake him so far beyond the compass of Natural continency, that if he had remained long in that perplexity it would have cut off his life. When he saw himself void of all hopes without means how to find her, and assurance that she was not within the Wood, he laid himself down upon the earth, uttering these laments. How fortunate had I been had I never set foot on the Persian soil: then had I been still King of Assyria, and Constantia at quiet in her Fathers Court, whereas now, both I, but especially her self, is fallen into extremum misery: Had it onely fallen on me, I should have endured a thousand more misfortunes, I could with patience have endured them; onely this tormenteth me, that my misfortune hath brought her from weal to woe, from quiet to discontent, from pleasure to pain, from happiness to misery, and from life to death. I cannot tell how to prevent these evils; to sit here and utter sad words availeth me not; to bewail her estate helpeth me not, nor to destroy my self will benefit her: Should I sit here so, I should never find her, and to seek her out of this place, is to spend my labours without hope of any comfort, for I fear me she is dead, and then I may never meet her Whist in this place, then her Body in another. Well, since neither comfort nor counsel is left to further my hopes, I will for ever dwell in this unfortunate place, and all the same with my la-

ments, neither shall my body rest in bed, nor my stomach taste of other food then wild fruit, until I find my love, or know the place of her abode.

Thus he lived in those woods many dayes and years, making every Tree a monument of Constantiaes unfortunate losse, though he were often dissuaded by Pisor, who afterwards travelled most part of those Countries in search of her, but could never hear of her: The Emperoz her Father also had given over all care, as supposing her to be dead; greatly lamenting the misfortunes of Pericles, and marvelling at his absence, believing that he was mar' hered, according to the accusations made by Oretus against Parenus and Thureus. Whom we will leave for a while to speak of the misfortunes befall Constantia.

CHAP. VIII.

How *Selia* was married to *Helion*, and of the miseries *Constantia* endured by her jealousy: How *Constantia* was delivered of a goodly Boy, whose life was preserved by the policy of *Palia*, and how *Selia* vexed thereat.

Helion was no sooner come into Arabia, but he was informed of his Fathers death, which for a time he lamented of common use, not of piety or affection; in the mean time causing *Constantia* to be kept in an old Monastery, under the government of an ancient Lady, who lived not onely by the gifts that the King bestowed upon her for many bad actions, but also of many Gentlemen that haunted the company of the Kings Concubines by stealth. In this very place did he leave *Constantia*, neither her keeper nor any other knowing what she was, who by this time was resolved to endure all adversities; many days giving her self to quiet, for *Helion* by reason of his dissembling Mourning, he came not at her.

But the time being come that he was Crowned King, he married *Selia*, causing *Constantia* as one of her Hand-maids to attend her, which he did out of a malicious intent onely to vex her; but she was well content to do any thing to be rid of his hateful love, whom she abhorred from the very depth of her soul. But

When he said she endured the same with such patience, he again caused her to be kept closely in the Monastery, giving order that none but Palia should come at her.

Thus did she continue, until she began to feel her self with child by Pericles, which draws her to the uttermost exigent of care how to preserve the Infants life, sometimes thinking to make her estate know to Palia; but having sufficient tryal of her wicked disposition, durst not trust her, least she should reveal the same unto the King.

Selia also at that time was great with child by Helion, both Conceiving at one instant, one in the Persian Court, the other in the Shepherds Cottage. Selia made Helion acquainted there, with, desiring that she might be delivered in some private place, that the Ladies of the Court might not know thereof, for it would be to her a great scandal.

Helion well knowing the nature of the people, and in what detestable sort they held Adultery in their Queen, thought no place so fit as the Monastery, where Constantia was, where she was soon conveyed, report being given out by the Kings command, that she was for the preservation of her health departed into the Country.

The Queen being come into the Monastery, asked for Constantia, who was presently brought before her, whom Selia now began to hate mortally, being jealous of her, supposing that her Husband still loved her, whom she used so disdainfully, upbraiding her with many indecent speeches, which she took most patiently, with bittish tears lamenting her misfortunes; and so proudly did she behave her self to all that attended on her, that they began to dislike her.

Palia seeing the pride of the Queen, and in what disdainful sort she used her, accusing her to be privy to the Kings secret love to Constantia, and using her so basely and with such evil terms, began to hate her, which Constantia perceived by some doubtful words she gave out against her; whereupon finding a fit opportunity, when she was vexed with her unkindness, she came to Palia, and said: I perceive the Queen useth you but unkindly, regarding to use none well, though they give her no cause at all: she likewise misuseth me, that never in my life offended her, but

have been the greatest cause of her good, I would gladly entreat your aid? and withal reveal many things unto you that you yet know not if I were assured of your secrecie, which I am the more fearful to reveal because they are matters of great importance, wherein notwithstanding if you will vouchsafe your assistance to pity my most miserable estate, you would do a deed of everlasting merit.

Palia hearing her speeches, said: If I may likewise without fear make my mind known unto you, be you assured that I do so mortally hate her, that rewards my good service with such disdain, that I will not leave any thing unattempted to vex her and pleasure; therefore if an Oath may assure you of my secrecie, having no other means at this instant to give you proof thereof, I vow by all the good that ever I expect, not to reveal what you disclose to me, but most faithfully labour to pleasure you to my utmost power. Then know (quoth Constantia) that I am Daughter to the Emperour of Persia, sometimes brought up in this Court, and your Niece, but the Daughter of a Country-fman in Persia, that being exalted to Dignity, though basely born, behaveth her self thus proudly: I fearing my Father would have married me to Helion against my will, having betrothed my self to the King of Assyria, with whom I stole from the Court in this apparel of Seliaes, that is now your Queen, much anxiety was made for me, but they could never find me, for I lived with my Lord in this disguise in a Shepherds house, until one day I missing him strayed so far from the house that I could not return, but by misfortune was found by Helion; and thus as you see brought into this Country, either to my death or a woofser end; I am also big with child, and within short space shall be delivered; my earnest desire is that you would use some means to preserve my Babe from death, which no doubt it is likely to endure by her malice and his cruelty.

Palia hearing her speeches did comfort her with many cheerful words, thereby to work some revenge against the Queen, pitying the distress of Constantia, of whose virtues she had before some knowledge: With this promise did Constantia somewhat comfort her self, hoping that in the end she should escape from that bondage, being daily cherished by old Palia, who behaven

her self towards Selia with such duty and obedience, that notwithstanding her often upbraidings, she still kept her self in most place of credit about her.

Now the time was come that the Queen was delivered of a goodly Boy, and Constantia the next night of another, none being prisy thereto but Palia, who handled the matter with such cunning, that she conveyed Constantiaes child to Selia, and hers to Constantia, making her acquainted with her intent therein; and the next night told Helion that the Damzel in her custody was delivered of a Boy. Helion hearing that, willed her to keep the same secret upon pain of death, and not to reveal it to the Queen, holding ere many dayes to destroy it, giving order to have his own Son named Petus; and coming to his Queen, told her it were best to be nursed in the Country, who was contented to be ruled by him. When calling Palia to him, he told her that she must provide a Nurse for his Son, who having before conspired what she intended, said she knew a kind woman of hers, that was lately brought to bed some twenty miles off, to whom she would convey the Infant.

Helion was glad of her promise, appointing her all things necessary for her departure the next morning. Late in the night when Palia was sure none could see her, she went to Constantia and told her what she intended, withal, asking her counsel what she should do.

Aye me, said she, I know not in this extremity what to resolve upon, fearing never to see my Son again; and if thou goest I lose my greatest comfort. When taking the child in her armes and bestowing many dear kisses thereon, she said; Palia, I pray thee let me know what thou intendest to do with it. Lady (quoth she) after I am departed this Court, I will not cease travelling till I arrive in Assyria, where I do not doubt but to find Perseus, unto whom I will declare your misfortune. But if I find him not there, I will travel into Persia to the place where you lost him, where I shall assuredly find him, so that he knowing your estate may seek to release you. And wilt thou do this for me (said Constantia) that am never likely to make thee amends? I will (quoth Palia) and with such faithfulness execute my charge as shall procure your comfort.

Many speeches past between them before they parted, but yet in the end she was constrained to leave her almost dead with grief, but afterwards somewhat comforted with the good hopes she had of her faithful dealing; of two evils thinking it the best to commit the Babe to her courtesie, who by all likelihood intended well thereto. Early the next morning she departed, having no body in her company, with all the haste she could, travelling towards Assyria.

Helion now began to meditate on Constantiaes misfortune, and who should be the Father of her Child; and whereas before he determined to pen her up in a Cloyster until she would wed to his desire he now resolved to revenge the disdain she had shewed him for refusing his love: And finding occasion when none could interrupt his speeches, being alone with her, he said unto her in this manner.

Disdainful and unworthy Lady, did you esteem so basely of my love, in my contempt, to chuse some base born peasant to possess that which I so long sought with devoted affection? and refusing my honourable proffer, to chuse rather to become anothers Harlot? Who would ever have thought that that comely person shadowed with so faire a pretext, had inwardly nourished such ignoble affections? Do you not think that the Emperours your Father will rejoyce to hear, that his faire Daughter (which may well be feared incontinency) hath so vilely stained her Princely blood and defamed her Royal stock with so infamous a bed, or will rather die with grief.

Wherefore to prevent so great a mischief as will come by his death, I will be the man to keep this act from his knowledge, and in his behalf work such punishment as shall be agreeable unto so great an offence; yet let me know the cause of thy contempt against me, and who is the Father of thy Bastard, which if thou refusedst to do by gentle means, I will by force compel thee therunto.

Constantia with patience heard out his speeches, and then did make him this answer: Helion, I can well bear your opprobrious words, neither do I care how scandalous they are, for the Father of my Infant is as good as thy self, and one that I love far more then thy self, who censurath me according to the quality

of his own disposition: The reason why I left my Fathers Court, was to avoid your importunate suit, which was very unpleasant to me in respect of the honourable love I embraced; therefore beware that you abuse not me, for though the Emperour my Father will not revenge my wrongs, yet there is a King as mighty as he claimeth my possession, and will not suffer me to be wronged.

What, is a King the Father of that Bastard, said he? No, thou shalt never persuade me to that; for it looketh more liker a fool, then a King.

Hea, said she, and yet a King as wise as thy self, and that ere long thou shalt soon know; for the Father thereof is private to all thy actions, although thou thinkest me safely kept; and if thou dost murder it, I care not, for thy self will be the first that will repent the deed. And for me, use me well, for the Father of this infant loveth thee well, and yet thou wilt be thy own destruction in seeking his death.

Helion understood not her meaning, marvelling who it should be she meant, that he said: I think thou art mad, or counterfeittest some defect by the ambiguity of thy speeches; for how can the Father of that Bastard love me? or what cause have I to repent me of any thing I should do to it, which the rather shall suffer me wrath because of thy veritions; therefore resolve me, or be assured of my everlasting hatred.

I neither, quoth she, regard thee nor thy hate, utterly denying to fulfil thy request in any respect; yet if thou hadst not demanded it, I would peradventure have told thee: Do the wrong you can, I care not, for misery it self hath made me resolve to endure the greatest extremity; and know, that I do the more dislike this Babe because it is so like thee, that hath not the least spark of honour or honesty. Ask me no more questions, for I will not answer thee, esteeming my self more fortunate in thy hatred then in thy love, for the one is nothing but the disemperate motion of a Cowardly disposition, and the other the unconstant falshood of a shallow wit.

Helion was much vexed to see how lightly she esteemed him, that ready to take his hair, he went raging and swearing from her, meditating which way how to work his revenge. Selia no-
ting

ting his dissemper by his pale countenance, asked him what had disquieted him: to whom he gave no answer at all, casting a scornful look towards her, which she took in such suspicious sort, that she presently supposed he did it in scorn of her, and being putt up with jealousie could not refrain from tears, and at last he uttered these speeches.

My Lord, I now perceiue the love you protested to bear to me is alfred, and I like a poore cast away like to liue in misery, would I liued still in my contented estate, then I should not have ben subject to these misfortunes, Constantia whom you told me you loved not, it is she that hath woin away your affections, and on her you dote, despising me, wherein you shew the inconstancy of your variable disposition; besides, she hath made known what I was, which makes me scorned by the Ladies of the Court, so that the misery I am like to endure is intollerable.

Do not, said he, disquiet your self with the least suspicion of any such alteration in me, for I vow to love none but your self; the cause of my vexation is how to revenge my self on her, that euen now hath used me with opprobrious tearms: she is brought to Bed of a Bastard, begotten of some base boyn peasant, which shall not lbe long to vex me; I wish I had left her in Persia to haue been deuoured by wild Beasts, rather then my pitying her to work my self this disquiet. Should I send word to her Father the Empero, he would compel me to marry her, or else he would make War against me: Or if I should seek her death, the knowledge thereof would by some means or other come to his hearing, and then he would take revenge against me, so that I know not which way to deuid of her.

The Queen hearing him say that she had a Bastard, presently began to suspect it to be his which she would then haue uttered, but fear and premeditated hope of revenge against poore Constantia, withheld her, thinking first to learn the truth before she would offend him, perceiuing his inconstant disposition to be such, that the least thing altered his love, deferring the same till her Moneth was ended, by which means Constantia rested void of disturbance.

The flame of jealousie burned so in Seliaes Breast, that as soon as she had forsaken the Monastery, and had a while with great

kindness behaved her self to all the Lords and Ladies in most estimation, thereby to insinuate into their good opinion, she came to Constantia saluting upon her with an affable countenance, using many courteous speeches towards her, with intent to sift out the truth of her suspicion.

Helion hearing that he was in the Monastery, fearing that she would have done some violence to Constantia, followed her. Selia seeing him there, was half astonished, thinking that he had not known thereof, and now suspected of a truth that he came to visit Constantia of love, and not to seek her, again burst forth into tears, whereupon he took occasion to say thus: Selia, I perceive suspicion is the cause of your disquiet, therefore to shew what little cause you have to use me so, do but say what I shall do to this dishonourable Lady, and it shall be performed. Constantia then began to fear some mischief was near her, which might easily have been seen by the oft change of her countenance, whereupon she made this reply: Helion, if thy Queen knew how much I disdain thee, such motions of dislike would not trouble her, for I contemn thy dispositions, which are ready to alter with every blast of words: or Selia, dost thou think that my heart will stoop to his base Lust, or become Concubine to so degenerate a wretch as thy husband is, no, I will rather see my body torn in pieces, and suffer the cruellest misery in the World; he threatened me with terrible speeches, but his Cowards heart is not of courage to execute his detested will; therefore thou that art of a hardy disposition, comest to encourage him to mischief; as the worst you can both, for I fear you more, but would gladly be rid out of this miserable life: And wilt thou shalt soon be (said Selia) notwithstanding thy dissimulation, thinking with villainous speeches to colour thy wickedness; I am indeed come to be revenged on thee, that crosseth my intent, and first shall that Bastard feel the smart of my wrath. Then catching the Child out of the Cradle where it lay, she held it by the heels ready to deprive it of life, till Helion beheld her; then Constantia said, stay let her murder it; and she will be the first that will repent it; yet first view it well, and see if it resembles not the Father that standeth by; I assure thee it is his, and that thou shalt soon know. But upon thee, said he, I besee thee; with that

she viewed it well, and perceiued that it resembled him perfectly, wherewith she cast the same on the ground, saying: Didst thou bring me hither to do me this intollerable wrong? Shall I suffer my self to be thus used, and live to endure perpetual discontent? the Peers of this Land shall understand the wrongs I sustain; and if none else, my own hands shall work revenge; Constantia then said: Selia, take up the infant, and cherish it, for it is thy own, my child by this time is conueyed far enough from thy power by Palia, who pitying my distress, and scorning to be subject to thy base pride, hath changed one for the other, leauing yours with me, carrying mine unto the King of Assyria, who is the Father thereof, who I doubt not will soon revenge the wrong that is done to me; neither do thou jealously suspect me for that degenerate King thy Husband, for she that is Daughter to the Emperour of Persia, scorneth to be thy Coarthal; if I had dealt unfaithfully with him, then he might worthily have inflicted this punishment upon me, but his own Conscience knows, I always refused to love him, my love being before beloued to the King of Assyria.

Both of them were amazed at her speeches, the Queen in all haste taking up her Son that lay sprawling at her feet almost dead; and Helion after a long study, said: Constantia, I perceiue thou knowest not how unable the King of Assyria is to redeem thee from hence, being lately dispossessed of his Crown by the King of Armenia; and by the Treason of his own Subjects, being himself obliged to live in obscurity; therefore this will I do in satisfaction of my mind against thee; thou shalt never depart from hence, but in this Cloyster end thy life, unless the valiantest Knight in the world redeem thee, for such a Guard will I put on her thee, as shall be overcome by none.

Constantia was no whit grieved to hear the doom of her imprisonment, but onely the suspect she had of his words of Persicles, overcame her heart with such fear, that she fell down into a deadly Trance, those that were about her having much ado to recover her, whereupon they left her, Helion giving command that most diligent search should be made for Palia through the whole Country of Arabia.

and were conduced into Assyria by Deloratus, Persicles, Osmius, Pisor, and other Knights of great valour; of whose deeds in Chabry we will hereafter speak of.

Persicles had such ill success, that after he had continued a long time in Assyria, yet he so little prevailed that he was compelled to flye back into Persia to renew his Forces. These cruel wars continued many years, the King of Armenia defending himself and keeping full possession of his Crown, notwithstanding the Persian Forces.

Deloratus perceiving that the long continuance of these wars had wasted a great number of Souldiers, and still the King was as far from possession of his Right as at their first beginning, determined to give over, and therefore assembled together the chiefest Rulers of the Hoste to know their opinion, what further to resolve on, who with a general consent perswaded him once again to renew his Forces, and if they did not prevail, never more to give the Onice.

CHAP. XII.

How Persicles Army was renewed, and how Montelion being denied by his supposed Father, stole to the Camp, where he preserved the Kings life; how Cothanes knew him, and discovered his Birth, and how he received Knighthood at the Kings hand.

Persicles seeing Deloratus ready to withdraw from him, being himself wearied with that tedious War, went with full resolution either to end his life, or never alter to abandon the company of all men, and end his dayes in solitariness; Deloratus therefore sent messengers into Persia to draw up new Forces, who in short time returned answer, that the Persian Camp was full fourscore thousand strong: Amongst the rest it fortuned Cothanes (being in his youth a man of great valour, and now being grown in years, and of exceeding good experience) determined not to give his minde to sloath, being much grieved to hear what a number of his Countrey-men were daily slain, and therefore told his Camp what he intended; but the

with tears and many intreaties dissuaded him, but all could not prevail his heart was so fully set thereon.

Montelion now being grown to manhood, hearing thereof, intreated Cothanes (whom he esteemed to be his Father, and so called him) that he might go with him; but he would by no means consent thereunto, the rather because his Lady most earnestly entreated him, that if he did go, not to leave her comfortless by taking Montelion with him; wherefore all his entreaties prevailed nothing, but of necessity he was enforced to stay.

Cothanes being departed, Montelion continued some dayes very pensive, being so much grieved in his thoughts to be left behind that he refused his Meat: And notwithstanding the many kindnesses his supposed Mother used to him, he thought all things troublesome; which desire so much prevailed with him, that furnishing himself with good store of Money, one night conveyed his Wife forth, and when all thought he had been in his Chamber he was departed.

By that time it was day he approached near the City of Holo-coss, wherein he stayed some three dayes until he had furnished himself with Armour, which he caused a workman to frame of exceeding good Lydian Steel: His Armour being intarset with the Figures of others Trees and Beasts of purest Gold; In his shield bearing this Device, A naked Man amongst a Tangle of Trees, the which he caused to be made on purpose to be known different from the rest.

Having furnished himself in this sort, he left the City and journeyed towards the Persian Camp in Assyria, where he was to fight; but he beheld both the Battlen joined, and a most terrible Fight, and a great number of Souldiers on both sides slain. Many covered and besmeared with blood, others then Souldiers grasped fast in their bows threatening, and others with a hideous noise breathing forth their last gasps; and in the Camp he beheld some flying, others pursuing, some standing fast in cruel conflict, others with great terror saying those that were next them, some with hideous noise animating their Fellow Souldiers, and others with fear crying, Retire, retire: Where he beheld both Persians and Armenians intermingled, some slaughtering others, where with he saw a noble array, being

heroes before beheld such cruel confusions. At last he beheld a most gallant man with his sword drawn all covered with blood, hurrying up and down amongst the Armenians, performing admirable deeds of Chivalry, till at last he was encompassed with such a multitude of his enemies, that it was impossible for him to escape, which sight stirred up in Montelson such sparks of Courage and desire to succour him, that his heart urging him to more forwardness than his Steed could perform, and yet his Steed with furious pace running as swift as might be, rushed in amongst the thickest of them. At the first he pierced his Lance through the bodies of two that were opposite before him, and his Horse with his inflamed courser overthrew others; treating them under his feet, then drawing his sword, whose sight dazzled the beholders, till he darkened the same with their blood, destroying such as withstood his passage, till he approached the Persian knight, who without his approach had there ended his life; but finding himself at more liberty by the assistance of this new come Gallant, again redoubled his abated courage, and joining themselves both together they performed such deeds of Chivalry, as by their valiant assistance the thronged multitudes of Armenians was dispersed, every one hasting to get from them.

This knight which Montelson had rescued, was Pericles who seeing how valiantly this new come Gallant had preserved his life, said: Noble knight, thy valour hath preserved me, for which I will not be ungrateful; and if thou art a friend to me, as thou hast already shown, second me, and I will once again try my fortune; with that Montelson held up his hand to them to give consent. Pericles with all speed hasted unto the forefront of the battle, and Montelson followed after, making such way that those that stood to resist him dyed; where being come, they found Deloratus, Othmus, Pisor, Cothanes, and many gallant knights in combat, beset with odds; but that disadvantage was soon turned to advantage by their approach, for there his Montelson perform such mighty deeds of Armes, as made both the Persian and Armenian hosts advise to be wary and to retire to their tents.

So did the Persians begin to gather new Courage and assault their enemies more bravely then they had done since the began.

Palian the Usurper of the Crown seeing that, thinking to prevail as in times past he had done, called the chiefest Rulers to him, exhorting them to take courage to resist the enemies; upon which with unsaunted spirits, they followed the Battle with great eagerness, that the Persian Commanders were forced to fly unto their Regiments to encourage them to resistance. All this time Montelion and Persicles kept together, making thousands of the Armenians to pay their lives for Tribute unto their Conquering Swords. Whilst they continued the fight in the Fore-front of the Battle, they suddenly heard a cry on the out-side: which when Montelion heard (not regarding to be counselled) he set his Spurs to his Horse and rode thither, where he found Deloratus amongst a great throng of Armenians unhorsed, and fighting on foot, being grievously wounded, and against such odds that he was ready to faint, amongst whom he rushed with such fury, that he horsed him again, and sent a Guard with him to his Tent; then returning again towards Persicles, he espied Cochanes unhorsed, whom he knew by his Armour, and newly by force taken prisoner, but before they could convey him from thence, he began so cruel a fight, that with the loss of many of their lives he set him at liberty.

The Armenians seeing their Fellows thus slaughtered, and the Enemy pursue them so closely, began to Retire, and Palian well perceived that he should lose that Day; therefore calling to him two Knights, one named Alchelus, the other Petron, who were the most stoutest men in all his Army, he said unto them: Join with me, and let us once again repel these faint-hearted Cowards: with that, they three, with a multitude of their chiefest Soldiers kept a head together, and fronted that Battle where the King himself fought. Palian knowing him, with a Lance ready couched ran at him, which lighted upon his shield, where it burst in pieces, not once bruising the well tempered Steel; then Alchelus and the rest assailed him all at once, whom he resisted with exceeding valour, continuing sharp Combat with them a long time; but at length the odds proving too great, he was driven onely to defend their swift blows that they made at him; and then he began to wish for the strange Knight that had before succoured him, expecting nothing but death.

By this time Montelion had rescued Cothanes, and again got him Horse and Armes, which done, he left him, and even at the very time the King wished for him came, and espying three Knights assailing him at once, he aimed his Sword point at Petrons Barak, who was next him, and running at him with all the force his Horse could possible make, thrust the same quite through his body, and presently after aiming the same at Palian he ran it at him, that had he not avoided his encounter he had either slain or wounded him, but missing him, he made at him with his Sword with such puissant force, that in short space he gave him many wounds.

King Pericles having none but Alchesus to resist, did Combat him bravely, who with the like valour resisted him; But in the end the Usurping King finding himself so overmatched, would have often escaped, which Montelion perceiving gave him no respite to flye.

Now the Fight was now terrible to behold, the Persians comforted by the onely valour of Montelion; running upon their enemies with unresisted fury.

The Armenians seeing one of their chiefest Champions slain and their General retire, were amazed, and rather ready to flye, then stand, which animated their Foes with courage to pursue them as long as the day lasted. Montelion still pursued Palian, in whose rescue many of his Knights interset themselves and dyed by his Sword, and notwithstanding though he withdrew himself yet Montelion followed him so near that he often put him in danger of his life, until he was so far past in amongst their Troops, that he was compelled with his Sword to make his way out; in whose retire many dyed.

The Fight drawing nigh, whilst the Armenians sounded a Retreat, Montelion had time to consider what was best for him to do, and whether it were convenient to discover himself or no, at last determining to depart in secret, he espyed the King hard by him, who of purpose had watched him, doubting that which he intended, who came unto him, and said:

Fair Knight, the kindness I have found in you, doth move me to desire your company, and intreat you to accept of my Tent, to repose your self in; for that I suppose you are a stranger, and it were

there incontinent for you to journey after so great a labour, having this day defended me, that I count my self years, and my life preserved by your valour; therefore deny me not, but let me requite your kindness.

Montelion having heard Cothanes oftentimes commend the King for valour and courtesie, and knowing how to behave himself as well to the meaner as the greater (being by Cothanes nobly Educated, and of his own inclination more apt to conceive than they were able to instruct) knowing him to be the King, said: Most honoured King, I am unfit to receive the honour you proffer me, and my deserts not worth the commendations you give them, therefore I beseech you not to attribute to me more than is befitting my mean estate, but rather licence me to attend on you with all humble duty, my life, and all my endeavours being vowed to be spent in your service, and my self ready at your disposition. This said, they went together to the Camp, where they were welcomed with shouts and rejoicings of all the Persian Soldiers.

Deloratus hearing that applaud, came forth of his Tent to see what was the cause thereof, and espying the King and the strange Muske together, came unto them, and they both alighted to salute him, but Deloratus would by no means suffer them to depart, but intreated them to lodge in his Tent that night, which they did not deny: then taking Montelion in kindness betwixt them, entered the Tent, where he unarmed himself.

When they beheld his youth they wondered greatly thereat, to be accompanied with such valour, both Deloratus and Persicles using them with great kindness: Presently after the principal Commanders of the Camp assembled themselves together to their Generals Tent to receive Order; amongst the rest was Cothanes, who at the first entrance into the Tent espyed his son Montelion, (his sword being onely unarmed) and by his Armour knew it was he that had so honourably preserved his life, he could not refrain from rejoicing: Likewise Montelion seeing him, upon his knee intreated him to pardon his boldness for coming to the Camp without his consent. Cothanes took him up, and embraced him, which the King seeing, said unto Cothanes, my friend, is this thy son? My Lord (said he) he is my son.

and he calleth me Father, and yet I am unworthy to be Father of such a Son, who hath rather far exceeded himself the Son of some ~~Baronick~~ King; and because his worthiness had not be darkned with the ignoble Title of my Son, I will declare to you all that I know of him; Indeed he is not my Son; but my Lady and I being one day on Hunting, found him upon the Top of a Mount in Swaddling cloaths, which were such as he was not of mean Parentage, but of honourable Race: his Mother as I suppose, being distressed for want of food, was nourished from him whose carhals and cloaths we found not far off destroyed by a Lion, since which time we have with carefulness brought him up, esteeming him as my own Son: this my Lord, in brief, is the whole some of what I know of him.

They all marvelled at his words; especially Montelson, who was struck into such a transportation, that for a time he stood like one metamorphosed. The king then, taking him by the hand, said: Although I know not what title to give you, yet both your courage of life, then nobility, as both appear by the manifest tokens of your heroic dispositions, therefore remit the care of that till hereafter, and stay with us who are comforted with your presence. My word, said he, makes my desire more greater than it is, yet the desire I have to do you service, would surmount the same, being entirely devoted to your worthiness, which no desire of reward, hope of praise, or worldly respect hath begot in me; but only the instinct of nature that hath effectually engravened the same into my heart; therefore I humbly desire you to vouchsafe me with the honour of a knight hood, whereby with if I be dignified by your virtuous hand, I shall remain both with you and an hour to defend the same. Perjur'd! highly esteeming him, and kindly embracing him, told him he would do that right he his wellwisher, and the next day take his desire. With many other speeches they ended the night, every of them departing with careful minds to set the watches.

CHAP. XIII.

How the Armenians Army with exceeding loss was discomfited.



Early the next morning Deloratus, Perficles, Cothanes, and all the rest of the chief Commanders of the Persian Army were assembled, who gave order that every Battle should be placed in such sort as if they expected a present Assault, which being performed, Montelion was with great Triumph brought into the Field, and by the King was invested with the honour of Knighthood, which when he received, the Soldiers gave an exceeding great shout.

The Armenians hearing so great a noise, could not judge what might be the cause thereof, some censuring one thing, and some another. Palian fretting exceedingly at the last dayes discomfiture which went nearest his heart, for that in all the time of the wars he had not endured the like, and calling unto him the chiefest Knights in his Camp, which were Alchesus, Golgron, Mutalus, Lamdelion, Knights of honourable birth, great wisdom, and approved valour, uttering to them his earnest desire of revenge, desiring them with all speed to counsel him which way to suppress the Enemies courage, onely resolved with the strange Knights also, amongst whom it was agreed to surprize them unawares in the midst of their joy, that with all speed they arrayed their Forces, and without the sound of either Drum or Pipe issued the City Gates.

Certain Persian Spies pretending their intent, passed to the Camp and certified the General thereof, who gave commands that without making any kind of suspicion, they should continue in their mirth, so that thereby their Foes should be heartned to their own destruction. Montelion with a party of Horsemen departed out of the Camp a contrary way to that the Armenians came, with intent to get between them and the City, which afterwards proved to effect.

The Armenians thinking to make a sudden slaughter of them, and not at all suspecting their readiness to receive them, with

careless haste approached the Camp running upon their enemies, whom they found in such orderly sort ready to receive them, that in short time they wished themselves again within the City. To recite every particular of their conflict, and with what terror the Battle continued, would dull my wits with confusion, therefore my Pen shall barely recite the admirable deeds of the most stoutest of both Armies.

Pericles considering what just cause he had, and with what equity he might challenge his Right wrongfully detained by his Usurping Foe, bent his Sword point with unrelenting fury to the destruction of his Enemies, pitying their deaths that dyed by his Sword, aiming the same rather at Palian's heart then against them that were by force constrained to hazard their dear lives; which when he had dyed in goze blood, he met with Palian, and at the first encounter had surely bereft him of life, had not his Horse by great misfortune stumbled at a dead body that lay in the way, but yet his Sword by that mischance missing his right aim, ran it quite through his Steeds neck, and both fell, lying groveling on the ground ready to be trodden to death. A valiant Knight that was next at hand rescued Palian and mounted him on his own Horse, whereby he lost his own life; for Pericles struck him such a blow on the head, that with the force thereof, his Armour yielding, some scales pierced his Brain that he dyed. The two Kings for a while continued fight together, Palian with every blow receiving a deep wound, insomuch that he knew he must either retire, yield, or dye: but then came Golgrou to his aid, who with him maintained fight against Pericles, who notwithstanding that odds had near hand brought them both to destruction, had he not espied Deioratus and Cothanes in distress, who were assailed by six valiant Knights, two of them being Altheus and Lamdelion, unto whom he hastened, giving them succour by the death of the first he met.

Whilst the Battle was maintained in the Front by the chief Commanders of both the Armies Montelion with his resolute followers, whose hearts were inspired with fiery courage, to be guided by so valiant a Guide, was gotten behind them, and began such a massacre, that multitudes on a sudden was destroyed by his approach, whose deeds of valour amazed these sen-

sea with such fear, and abated their courage with such terror, that like a Flock of fearful Sheep, espying the approach of a devouring Lyon, ran with amazed fear from his Paws, even so the Armenians fled from the destroying hands of Montelion, filling the Ayze with such dismal cries that the noise thereof daunted the hearts of the stoutest Armenians: Palian and Golgron then turned their backs, making thitherwards to know the cause, Althesus and Lamdelion did the like, whilst Deloratus, Persicles, and the rest, made such havoc amongst the Common Soldiers, that had the fight continued long all their enemies had been destroyed.

Palian and Althesus met Montelion not knowing him; but supposing that it was he that had made such slaughter amongst the last day, both assailed him, who in his heart rejoiced that he had met with two such Champions to make tryal of his valour, continuing so brave a Combat between them both as is not to be described.

By this time the cry began on the other side with such a huge noise that Palians heart was affrighted therewith, and defended himself as if a slender Youth had held encounter with a great Giant, and began to sound a Retreat, hasting to the City with all speed; which could not be accounted a Retreat, but rather an absolute flight, for it was done with such haste as if they had been all amazed.

The day being thus ended (to the terror of one, and comfort of the other) the Persians retired as Widows, and the Armenians half mad with grief and despair within their Walls, not minding suddenly to issue again. Persicles and Deloratus honouring Montelion with their kind embrasings, and the Soldiers applauded their valour with great rejoicings, and every one (according to their present occasion) betook themselves to their charges, spending the time in more joy and security then ever they had done.

Emperors of Persia, which by reason of my sudden departure I could not give her notice of; having no other comfort but my Sister Piera, to whom I told the secrets of my heart, departing with her promise of assistance. Whilſt I went into Aſſyria to eſtabliſh my Kingdom, Prince Helion of Arabia obtained the Emperors conſent to marry her, which news my Siſter ſent me. I being much troubled therewith, after I had repulſed my old enemy the King of Armenia in a Battle, I left the government of my Kingdom to two of my Nobles, and departed in the habit of a Pilgrimage into Perſia, where within ſhort ſpace I uſed ſuch means by my Siſters friendſhip, that I was in that habit without ſuſpicion in her Chamber, and thereby had conference with Conſtancia, and attained her conſent, nothing remaining but only means to eſcape, which afterwards we effected, and travelled together till we came to a Shepherds houſe, where we were kindly welcomed. Contracting a ſolemn Marriage between our ſelves, becauſe we durſt not be known to the contrary, where we lived ſome dayes in quiet: In the mean time her Father cauſed diligent ſearch to be made, and it was Piſors chance to find us, who kept our counſel, and was by me ſent into Aſſyria to fetch ſome of my own Knights to attend me home, where he found my Subjects at ſtrife, and the King of Armenia taking that opportunity, with a mighty band of ſouldiers ſlew moſt of my Guard, they joining with him until he had ſeized my Crown. Piſor with this heavy news returned to me, being unwilling to give me knowledge thereof, which overcame my heart with ſuch grief, that ſeeking out a ſolitary place, I wandered ſo far that I could not return to the Shepherds houſe that night: The miſſing me alſo, ſent forth the Cottage to ſeek me, but directing her ſteps a contrary way, or miſting with ſome miſfortune, I never heard of her ſince; Piſor he likewiſe went forth to ſeek us, and ignorantly taſted of an unhappy fruit, that infused a ſcurvy upon him for the ſpace of four and twenty hours; but yet in his and my moſt earneſt ſearch we could never finde her, and I fear never ſhall; but if I could recover this obliſſed me by my ſins, I would then ſpend the reſt of my life in her ſearch. Having ended theſe ſpeeches, his heart was ſo much overcome with grief, that he had much ado to withhold his eyes from tears.

Montelion was oppress with no less grief then he, whose heart felt more inward disquiet then a Strangers could have done, in silent sadnes seeming to partake of his sorowes, but not able to counsel him which way to rectare them; that at last by reason the necessity of the time afforded little respit, they were constrained to depart.

CHAP. XV.

How Montelion by a strange and dangerous accident won the City, and took *Palian* prisoner.

Montelion that night elected out of his own followers twenty Knights, such as he esteemed most valiant; telling them he had a matter of great danger and secrecie to complot, which might be a means to establish the King in his Kingdom if they would faithfully joyn with him, which they all vowed to accomplish and follow him, though it were to their deaths. Arm you then (said he) in Armenian Armour, of which you have your choice and come to me at Midnight.

The Knights being all come according to the appointed time, he departed with them through the Camp to the City Gates, and there he knocked, but scarce so loud that the Porter could hear him, who coming to the Battlements, demanded who it was. I am (quoth he) Alchesus and other Armenians, as thou mayest know by our Armour, and bring good news, therefore open the Gates, least by delay we are betrayed, for we are pursued. The Porter being hasty to succour them, presently unbolted the Gates. Montelion was no sooner entered, but he slew the Porter, entering the Lodge, and fell upon the Watch that lay sleeping, killing most of them before they awaked. One of them submitting himself, thus said: I am an Assyrian, spare my life, and if you be friends to Pericles, I will direct you how to surprize the City and take the Usurper.

In so doing (quoth he) thou shalt be honoured of the King and purchase thy own liberty. After they had put the rest to the sword, the Assyrian directed them to the Palace, and by so secret a way, that he brought them even within the compass of the Ca-

He to the very place where the Guard was. Montelion then said thus to his followers: My Champions, let not fear now possess your hearts, but by this exploit win honour for ever; and by the Assyrians direction divided themselves into two parts, the one to the foremost entrance, and the other to a by way. Montelion knocking at the door one of the Guard opened the same, and presently he rushed in with his sword drawn, killing the first, the next, and all that came within his compass. The Guardians were so amazed therewith, that they were confounded in their senses, their courages for want of time to consider abated, and their hands with fear and trembling not able to draw their swords, and when they had drawn them knew not who to resist, for Montelion and his knights were so like them in Armour, and so intermingled amongst them, that they knew them not from their own fellows, by which means Montelions knights (who by a private mark knew one another) made such a slaughter amongst them that all the floor did swim with blood: Some made means to flee out at the back door, but as they stepped out they met death, he that followed not knowing him that went before to be slain, and had all come that way they would one by one have been destroyed, that in the end by Montelions valour there was not one left alive.

This Plot was performed with such expedition in the night time, that the rumour thereof came not to the hearing of any, so that within short space and little labour Montelion surprised Palian in his Bed; who seeing one in Armour besmeared with blood and his sword drawn, starting up, asked him what he was: I am thy enemy (quoth Montelion) and friend to Pericles: Thou art a Villain and a Traytor (said Palian) and then he called to his Guard, crying out Treason, Treason, I am betrayed, Help, Help.

Thou cryest in vain (said Montelion) for there is none near to hear thee: for by this hand thy Guard are slain, and thou shalt follow the same unto Death, unless thou dost ask mercy: for my hands can hardly abstain from working revenge on thy Traytors head, thou hast deserved to be punished with inexorable torments. Montelion had scarce made an end of his speeches, but he heard the echo of a great out-cry. I beseech his ears; the

occasion was this; After Montclion was departed his Tent, his Esquire following him, and seeing him enter the City with so few in his Company, ran back with all speed and told the King what he had seen, who fearing that rash attempt might endanger his life, and hearing that he had gotten entrance into the City, armed himself, calling up Deloratus, Pisor, Olimus, Cothanes, and all the rest of his chief Commanders of the Army, with the choicest of their Bands, to the number of twenty thousand, and marched to the City Gates, which they found wide open, and being entred, and by several Companies dispers'd into every corner of the streets, presently on every side they gave an Alarum, which sounded so terrible to the ears of all the Armenians, that like men bereaft of their senses, they ran up and down to their own destruction. There did Deloratus fill his hands with slaughter, and Pisor with cruelty revenge his witholden liberty; there did Cothanes and Olimus with many thousands colour pale Death in Red; and there did the King triumph over his Foes, his Conquering Sword working their deaths, that the City channels ran with gore blood, and there haply steps intercepted by heaps of men that lay dead on the ground: then began such an out-cry as would have frighted the senses of the most valiant; Did men hiding their heads in their houses, the Women with their Children crying, wringing their hands, and making great lamentation, the Soldiers ready to kill one another, not knowing whom to offend, being ignorant in the beginning of this Tragedy.

The Counsellors, and such as sat in Seat of Justice, with all haste went to the Castle wherein Palian was; where at their first entrance they found what sad spectacles of horror and dread had already entred there, laying open passage to death. Montclions Knights (though but few) soon laid hands on them, slaying those that resisted, and inclosing them that yielded within a strong Tower.

By this time Montclion had baled Palian from forth his Chamber, and bound him hand and foot, inclosing him in a strong Jail, where many Malefactors was imprisoned, himself being his Jailor, and having intelligence that the King was entred the City, he bent his steps to find him out, by the way killing

the Armenians, who took him to be one of their own Officers by his Armour.

At last he came to the Abbey, wherein the greatest part of the Enemy lay, in a large Field, incircled within the Wall, whereinto the King with three thousand Soldiers were before entred, making such a slaughter as would have grieved the heart of any beholder.

Montelion being alone, thought now or never to make tryal of his valour, though being on foot, yet rushing amongst the thickest of his enemies, who seeing him in that Armour, thought he had rather been one of their chief Commanders then a Foe, who frantick with afright, slaughtered them because they were slow to kill their enemies; which when he perceived, he cryed unto them, Villains, Traytors, Cowards, why do you spare me? I am your Enemy, a Persian, and come to destroy you; notwithstanding his speeches, by reason they had no time to consider what to do, they still fled from him, not so much with the thought of what he was, as with fear to come near him, for none came within his compass but he dyed; so that where he fought Death triumphed, and by reason of their flight his hasty blows were spent in vain.

The King and Deloratus being nigh dead and beheld him with admiration, wondering who it was (that they thought) with such fury fought against himself, until he espyed them, by his speeches giving them notice who he was. Having found him they desired, they followed their enemies with cruel destruction, the bright day disclosing the bloody act of that night, which appeared before them with such a grim Aspect that it made terror seem terrible, and before many hours of the day were spent the Armenians were utterly destroyed.

The King gave a strict order for diligent search to be made all through the City, and if they found any Rebels to put them to the sword: which done, he commanded the dead carcases in Carts to be carried out of the City, which were so many, as that they had much to do to perform it in a dayes time: When he had done this, he gave the spoils of the enemies Wives and Children unto the Persian Soldiers, and also gave commandment that that the Women, Children, Old men, and impotent people,

should be brought into the City, and every one possesse his own house wherein he dwelled before: This being performed, and for that day order being taken for the wounded, the Souldiers enriched with Spoil, the Citizens at quiet in their houses, diligent Watch set at each Gate, and a strong Guard within the Tents, for that it drew to night, and their labour required ease, after much joy, they betook themselves to their rest.

Early the next morning they forsook their Pavillions, and appointed certain Scouts to watch about the borders of the Country for the approach of the King of Armenia, which they all supposed would be very shortly, for it was now two moneths since Alchesus departed.

By that time the day was aged the space of three hours, the inhabitants of Assyria that had lived under the subjection of the Armenians, hearing of Palians Overthrow, and being assured of Pericles safety (which before they would not beleefe) came in multitudes to submit themselves unto their Lawfull King, who rejoycing thereat, had them in sign of their obedience Arm themselves and return to their own houses, and destroy all the Armenians that inhabited the land of Assyria, not suffering Man, Woman, or Child to live.

It was a wonder to behold with what greediness the Multitudes bent themselves to their enemies destruction, every one thinking to be foremost, and he that was last thinking himselfe happy if he could grasp a Sword to seek his own liberty: which they effected within three dayes, that there was not any of the Armenians Progeny left.

If they found an Assyrian woman married to an Armenian man both she and all her Children dyed; and if they found a woman with child, or having any children, that she could not shew an Assyrian was the Father of them, they had all of them been slain.

In the mean while all those that were prisoners were brought forth. Pericles by the consent of his Nobles, People, and Council, appointed them to dye (Palians excepted) who also had that day suffered a shameful death, had he not been a Kings Son, being onely committed to safe custody, where he was honourably used.

These Tragical stratagems overpast, and all things in secret, yet the beauty of the Land was destroyed by the Armenians, and now the Nobles and Peers of the Land that durst not look over the Castle walls, assembled themselves unto the King, making all preparation they could for his more honourable entertainment: The Bells rung for joy, and the People with great joy applauded his victory. Within few dayes he was again Crowned King of Assyria; and Montelion honoured with such commendations as his worthiness deserved; every one (as of right they should) attributed that honoured victory to his valour, all men growing into deep affection towards him, and with rejoicing manifested their love.

CHAP. XVI.

Of the King of Armenia's arrival with a new Army; how Montelion set Palian at liberty, and of a Peace that was concluded.



Whereas certain of the Spies had knowledge of the approach of the King of Armenia, and brought news thereof unto the Court, which stirred up new discords amongst them, for then they began on all sides to arm themselves afresh: But that was soon stayed by the coming of Ambassadors from

the King of Armenia, who delivered their Message thus:

Pericles of Assyria, the mighty King of Armenia commandeth thee to deliver his son Palian in safety, whom he understandeth thou hast taken prisoner: Withal he requires restitution to be made of the Crown and Kingdom of Assyria, which by right of ancient inheritance is his: Other wise, he will bring so puissant and invincible an Army against thee, that thou shalt waste and consume this land, not leaving City, Town, nor House, he will make the Inhabitants perpetual bondslaves, and he will cause thee to flye, or abiding his coming, he will take thee captive, and lead thee into Armenia, where thou shalt remain his vassal. This is the sum of that which he requireth, therefore let us have answer. I will not stay, said Pericles, what to say, but thus say to him: His son is my prisoner, and I will detain him, as for his threats I fear them not; utterly denying his false title to my Crown,

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which in my absence he seized upon, not by valour, but by treachery; and tell him that I demand restitution for the wrong he hath done me and my Countrey, which if he deny, nothing shall make me satisfaction but his Sons death; and tell him thus, Let him with haste return, least my fury overtake him, and so he feel the mischief he intendeth to me, for I mean to meet him presently, and work such distraction amongst his Souldiers, as shall cause them to seek his life for betraying them into my hands.

Pericles spake these words with such fury, that the Ambassadors believed he would do it, and so they departed. The King of Armenia little thinking to receive such an answer, but rather performance of his demand, was so enraged, that he presently commanded his souldiers to march to the City, bowing to redeem his Son, or be taken prisoner himself. Pericles also had collected a mighty Band of Persians and Assyrians to meet him, that this was likely to prove the hottest battle that ever was fought in that part of the World.

In the mean time Palian was brought before Pericles, who was seated upon his kingly Throne in great Majesty, and thus said: What canst thou allege to excuse thy self from death, having rightly deserved the same? Thou knowest that it was in my power to set thee free, or put thee to death; which the just Heavens have inclined upon thee as a due punishment for thy Tyranny.

I am (quoth Palian) a King as absolute as thy self, therefore I know thou dardest not put me to death: which if thou shouldst presume to attempt, know that my Father is here at thy elbow to revenge the same, whose power thou cannest not escape: therefore I beseech thee, and urge thee, to do the same, for I know thee to be of so cowardly a disposition, that when thou dost come once within my Fathers sight, thou wilt run away. The people that stood by hearing this, cried out, Hang him up, Let him dye, Let him dye; and it was long before the multitude would be appeased: but at length the King said: Traitor, dost thou utter these words in my presence, thou shalt assuredly dye, not all the world shall redeem thee: and so commanded his Guard to hold him in pieces, whereupon they began to wound him: but Mordelion crying between them, and humbling him.

fell upon his knee, thus said : Most noble King, vouchsafe to hear me speak, and without offence let me claim my Right : This Knight is my prisoner, therefore to put him to death without my consent, were to do me wrong : Yet although I speak this, pardon me, I speak not any thing to contradict your will, but I humbly desire your Majesty to grant me this favour, that as I took him, so I may dispose of him.

The King with great haste rose from his seat, and embraced Montelion, saying : Were it my Kingdome, my Life, or any thing else that I esteem more then both, that you requested, I would for ever curse my heart if it should deny it you, for you have done me so much good, and my debt is to you so great, that if I live a thousand years, I shall never pay, therefore I give him freely unto you, and his life withal. I humbly thank you (replied he) with that he took his prisoner by the hand, and after humble reverence done, he departed, to whom being alone he said : Noble Prince, not expecting reward, or fearing threats, I here give you your liberty. Then did he desire him to make choice of his Horse and Armour, and arming himself rode discreetly away, his stout heart not suffering him to give Montelion thanks : being come to the Camp he humbled himself to his Father, who embracing him, said : My dear Son, welcome, Then strutting up and down, said : I thought that Gallard Pericles durst not detain thee ; for if he had his life had paid thy Ransom, and shall so yet for keeping thee so long : by Jupiter, this night will I fire the City about his ears, because I know the Coward dares not come forth to meet me.

Hearing his Father thus boast, and knowing how unlikely he was to perform it, such a passion of deep consideration, changed in him with a sudden alteration contrary to his former disposition, and calling to remembrance how lately he was in danger of death, the great power Pericles had about him, the late slaughter he had made amongst his Followers, the courtship of Montelion ; but most of all his ingratitude towards him that had given him his life, thus said.

My noble Father, not the fear of your Forces, nor Pericles Cowardise (for by his doom I had dyed) set me at liberty, but the courtship of a noble Knight that had took me prisoner ; who when Pericles

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which in my absence he seized upon, not by valour, but by treachery: and tell him that I demand restitution for the wrong he hath done me and my Countrey, which if he deny, nothing shall make me satisfaction but his Sons death: and tell him thus, Let him with haste return, least my fury overtake him, and so he feel the mischief he intendeth to me, for I mean to meet him presently, and work such distraction amongst his Souldiers, as shall cause them to sell his life for betraying them into my hands.

Pericles spake these words with such fury, that the Ambassadors belieued he would do it, and so they departed. The King of Armenia little thinking to receiue such an answer, but rather performance of his demand, was so enraged, that he presently commanded his souldiers to march to the City, bowing to redeem his Son, or be taken prisoner himself. Pericles also had collected a mighty Band of Persians and Assyrians to meet him, that this was likely to prove the hottest battle that euer was fought in that part of the World.

In the mean time Pabian was brought before Pericles, who was seated upon his Kingly Throne in great Majesty, and thus said: What canst thou allege to excuse thy self from death, having rightly deserved the same? Thou knowest that it was refteth in my power to set thee free, or put thee to death: which the just Heavens have inclined upon thee as a due punishment for thy Tyranny.

I am (quoth Pabian) a King as absolute as thy self, therefore I know thou darrest not put me to death: which if thou shouldst presume to attempt, know that my Father is here at the elbow to revenge the same, whose power thou canst not escape: therefore I beseech thee, and urge thee to do the same, for I know thee to be of so cowardly a disposition, that when thou dost come once within my Fathers sight, thou wilt run away. The people that stood by hearing this, cryed out, Hang him up: Let him dye: Let him dye: and it was long before the multitude would be appeased: but at length the King said: Grantor, as rest thou utter these words in my presence, thou shalt assuredly dye, not all the world shall redeem thee: and so commanded his Church to lead him in pieces, wherewith they began to wound him: but Mousellon stepping between them, and humbling him

fell upon his knee, thus said : O most noble King, vouchsafe to hear me speak, and without offence let me claim my Right : This knight is my prisoner, therefore to put him to death without my consent, were to do me wrong : Yet although I speak this, pardon me, I speak not any thing, to contradict your will, but I humbly desire your Majesty to grant me this favour, that as I took him, so I may dispose of him.

The King with great haste rose from his seat, and embraced Montclion, saying : Were it my Kingdome, my Life, or any thing else that I esteem more then both, that you requested, I would for ever curse my heart if it should deny it you, for you have done me so much good, and my debt is to you so great, that if I live a thousand years, I shall never pay, therefore I give him freely unto you, and his life withal. I humbly thank you (replied he) with that he took his prisoner by the hand, and after humble reverence done, he departed, to whom being alone he said : Noble Prince, not expecting reward, or fearing threats, I here give you your liberty. Then did he desire him to make choice of his Horse and Armour, and arming himself rode victoriously away, his stout heart not suffering him to give Montclion thanks : being come to the Camp he humbled himself to his Father, who embracing him, said : O my dear Son, welcome, Then strutting up and down, said : I thought that Gallard Pericles durst not detain thee, for if he had his life had paid thy Ransom, and shall so yet for keeping thee so long : By Jupiter, this night will I fire the City about his ears, because I know the Toward dares not come forth to meet me.

Hearing his Father thus boast, and knowing how unlikely he was to perform it, such a passion of deep consideration, changed in him with a sudden alteration contrary to his former disposition, and adding to remembrance how lately he was in danger of death, the great power Pericles had about him, the late slaughter he had made amongst his仇lovers, the contents of Montclion ; but most of all his ingratitude towards him that had given him his life, thus said,

O my noble Father, not the fear of your Forces, nor Pericles Cowardise (for by his noon I had seen) set me at liberty, but the countesse of a noble knight that had took me prisoner, who when

Pericles had appointed my death, and the Executioners setting upon me, challenged me to be his prisoner, honourably armed me, and courteously let me go: therefore I beseech you with prayer your Forces, and offer no wrong to Pericles, who never offended you: the Kingdom of Armenia is as good as Assyria, and better; and it is better to enjoy that with quiet, then both that and this with discontent: if not for that, yet for this, I humbly entreat you to conclude a peace with Pericles for your own safety, for his power is too mighty to be subdued by these small Forces you have brought: he is now Allied to the Persian, who is yet no enemy, but wholly your friend; but if these wars continue long, he will prove our mortal foe; if you go forthward, I must stay behinde, for it were a great dishonour for me to fight against him that hath so honourably set me at liberty: if you should be overcome how much would it endanger your life, and if your life were in danger, do you think you could escape: besides I will humbly submit my self into the hands of your enemies, or rather spill my own blood before your face, then live to see so dismal a day as that will prove, therefore I humbly desire you to conclude a Peace.

The King heard out his speeches with silent attention, being so inwardly enraged, and with such desire thirsting after revenge, that his heart was ready to burst with malice; but at last being more mollified with desire of victory, then of yielding to his sons request, he said: Let it be as you will have it, for this time you shall over rule me.

Noble Father (quoth he) I know to conclude this Peace, will turn to our everlasting good, and your own content; Pericles is honourable, and never offended you, and I know he will embrace it, therefore I desire you let it be concluded with your free consent: whereupon he gave his consent, willing him to conclude what he thought good.

Palan mounting himself set spurs to his Horse, with all speed riding towards the City, where he met with Pericles mighty Bands of Soldiers, and desiring to speak with Montelion, he kindly embraced him, yielding him so many hearty thanks, with such courtesy, love, and earnest affection, with many earnest words for preserving his life, that Montelion wondered at the sudden al-

teration in him, that before was so rude and discourteous, most lovingly embraced him: then did he unfold the cause of his coming with such earnestness, entreating Montecelion to join with him to conclude the Peace, that he promised him his assistance, so they both went unto the King.

Palian delivered his message with humble reverence, and Pericles with as much courtesy received it; and so effectually was this wrought that the Peace was accepted, and both the Armies meeting in the field, instead of blows embraced each other, and both the Kings saluted each other, first in strange sort, but afterwards with more familiarity. After many speeches on both sides, Pericles accusing him of wrongs, and he still alledging the contrary, but Palian laboured earnestly to conclude the peace, yet the Battle was like to join, and discontented they both grew to great rage, which by Montecelions and Palian's persuasions was concluded. Growing to this conclusion, a Peace was ratified two years, in which time Ambassadors should be sent to the Emperor of Persia and the King of Macedonia, to intreat their Royal assistance to make an end of this controvèrsie.

Pericles heart could hardly endure to yield to his foe so far, or abstain himself from revenge, or appoint his rightful estate to be determined by the doubtful case of Arbitrement; in his heart disdaining his Enemy should have so much scope limited him, as though he had interest at all in his Kingdom, but rather that then he should either absolutely win all, or lose all; but regarding both much he had troubled Deloratus and the Persians, who now desired to return home to their own Country, but most of all being desirous to travel in search of his dear Love, from whom he had long been absent, for whose safety he would have lost his Kingdom, and Liberty, whose absence was a continual grief to his Conscience, utterly despairing of finding her: but yet that nor any other ambiguity could cause him to desist; but that he would depart in her search, thinking she was living, therefore he yielded to any thing.

Having taken the King of Armenia's Oath, not to interfere in his Kingdom till the time prescribed, they parted, Pericles to the City, and the King with his Army to Armenia. Palian

mind was litted in such admiration of Montelions vertues that he humbly entreated his Fathers leave to bear him company, but he denied him, reproaching him greatly with bitter terms: yet notwithstanding with him few dayes after he departed in disguise. The King would have sent after him to have slayen him, but his Nobles perswaded him to the contrary.

Palian being arrived at the Assyrian Court, declared to Montelion the cause of leaving his Fathers Court, which was with no other intent (he said) then to enjoy his company, and to do Pericles service; which proceeded not from any coloured dissimulation, but from the depth of a constant resolution. Such an alteration has Montelions vertues and his Fathers tyranny wrought in him, that he admired the one and abhorred the other; of which he gave such manifest tokens that Pericles had no cause to misdoubt him, nor Montelion to refuse his familiarity.

CHAP. XVII

How after the Peace concluded, Pericles left the Government of Assyria to Pisor, determining himself to travel in search of Constantia: How they arrived in Persia; of their Honourable entertainment, and of the contrarious accidents in Love that befell in the Persian Court.



After all these troubles were overpast, the Persian souldiers richly sent home, Pericles had established his Kingdom, leaving the same to the Government of Pisor, he determined to travel in search of Constantia, making the occasion of his departure to be to accompany Deloratus into Persia, now but Pisor and Montelion knowing the contrary. By the way as they went, Corbanes desired them to visit his dedication, which the rather they did to see the cloath he there wore about Montelion: They were Honourably welcomed by the Royall Officer, Corbanes, who bringing forth the Queen, which they opened, and was viewed, neither Pericles nor Deloratus knowing any of them (for they were such as Corbanes had in Arabia.) Through the rest there was a Helmet of

exceeding richness, which Montellion in the presence of them all put about his neck, holding solemnly never to part with it until he had found out his Parents.

Afterwards they departed, Montellion leaving Cocharnes and his Foster-mother, who bewailed his departure with abundance of tears: but within few dayes they arrived in Persia, the Emperour sending out Troops of gallant Knights to attend them, the States, Nobles, and Peers of the Land his rich attyre to entertain them, and himself with the Emperesse, Piers, and a number of other gallant Ladies forsaking the Court to meet them: the Citizens hearing of their approach prepared to entertain them with delightful behavours. The Knights met them some 2 miles from the City, welcoming Deloracius with great reverence, and the other three Knights with courtesie: the Nobles embracing them, and at the Gate they saw the Emperour with his Royal Assembly, staying their coming, unto whom Deloracius knelt, whilst they with tears welcomed his safe return, and whilst he embraced Piers, the Emperour and Emperesse saluted Picholes; and when they had left them to speak to Piers, they demanded of Deloracius who those strange Knights were. One of them (said he) is our late reconciled friend Palian, and the other is the most valiant Knight Montellion, that by his valour hath preserved our lives, confounded his enemies, and won himself immortal honour. The Emperour had Palian welcome into Persia: and then he very kindly embraced Montellion, who with reverence fell at his feet.

All that beheld him, admired that one so young should be adorned with such Chivalry, and the Ladies with their rich Crowns cheered each part of his perfect Attirements, which they thought to be most exquisite. All tedious salutations being past, they came to the Court, and danced with such Royalty, as it was an admiration to the beholder's Eyes: Where might one see the people with green meads throng to behold them; but especially the white Knight, every one making to him, as he, that he might come near them, whilst others stood the black Knight with the Chape with a white blith. The Emperor had part of his Court by themselves, and so lay long in waiting at their Royal entrance, Picholes, Piers, and Cocharnes, whilst the

you from the hearing of Constantia's mistresses; for such entertainment was there, and every thing performed with such Royalty as might have beleeved the greatest monarch of the world. After Supper, the time of resting come, the aged Emperor and Empress had good night to their Guests, and every one betook themselves to their several Lodgings, remitting all conference until the next dayes opportunity.

The King being alone studied most part of the night which way to travel in search of Constantia Montelion in thinking of his unknown Parents, Palian suffering in love with Praxentia, and the commendation of Montelion, Deloratus in pleasure with Piera, and the old Emperor and Empress in joyful remembrance of all their safeties, every one possessed with a several conceit, till sleep overcame their senses.

Early the next morning they took their Beds Perficles and Deloratus in conference with the Emperor and Empress, and Piera in the hearing of the Princesses and other Ladies rehearsing the story in Assyria, and the manner of their victory. Montelion in company of Palian commended the royalty of the Persian Court, and the beauty of the Ladies; which speech they entered into, by reason of Palian, whose heart could not chuse but utter his inward thoughts, which had entertained a surfeiting view of the Princess Praxentias beauty, which was so exquisite, as might have entangled the senses of any man; but Montelion rested as long as one that never thought of love, having his senses so fully possessed with desire to seek his Parents and search for Constantia, that no other thought would enter his Breast; but such a contrary had blind Fortune wrought amongst them, that every one desired a contrary thing; for Palian doted not so much on Praxentia, as she did on Montelion; and he was so far from thinking any such thought, as it was in vain for her to hope; Palian seeking to give her knowledge thereof, and she expecting when Montelion would proffer love to her, and he on the other side seeking means to hasten Perficles departure, which he would instantly have done, but that he could not so soon seek to leave the Emperor nor his Sister; yet notwithstanding the Emperor commanded him to stay a while, which he could by no means deny, Palian was glad of this, and Praxentia was not sorry; only she

telion thought he would be too tedious, because his affections were wholly bent on his journey.

CHAP. XVIII

How Praxentia sent her Nurse to Montelion; how she took Pallia for Montelion, and to him discovered her secrets.



He debited by all means he could to have conference with the Princess, refusing rest, food, and company, to study thereon: oftentimes enjoying her company, but not the opportunity he expected, suffering with beholding her beauty, and spending himself faster in the snare of love, finding no hope of comfort; but on a day it thus fell out, the dear Princess sent a Damzel to an old Lady named Lanula, willing her to come and speak with her, who presently came, and being alone, they had this conference.

Lanula (said she) I have occasion of your assistance in a matter of great secrecy, which I have refused to impart to any but your self, for the good opinion I have of you, is, that you may do me a pleasure, and everlastingly bind me to requite the same. The old Lady was so forward of her self, that without further entreaty she swore she would do as she would have her, were the matter never so great, yea if it hazarded her own life. I have no feign to mislead thee (said she) yet I cannot but blash at the rehearsal of it. Lady (quoth she) will you pardon me if I tell you what it is, is it not love? Yes (quoth she) it is so, I am in love, but I fear I am not beloved, and him I love, is honourable a knight, as the world yields not his fellow, but being a stranger and unknown, I know he cares not tell me that he loves, because my Father will never consent thereto: yet I could be content with his estate, were it never so mean, I have often been in his company desiring my self to argue thereof, which any but himself might perceive; but I spent that labour in vain, and shall do this, unless you will communicate to my Debut. Well the his name (said Lanula) in the last many hours he said, I told by some means or other, have conference with him. It is the strange knight Montelion, the

what thou wilt to him without impeaching my modesty, and I care not; for not being by I shall not blush, neither care I to hear any thing, for if he once go from hence I shall never see him again. As she had spoken these words, she stopped him walking alone at the further end of the Garden, entering into a Grobe: Wonder he is (said Praxentia). Lanula told her she would then speak, and so departed.

Montelion being come to the further end of the Garden, espied Palian lying upon a Bank, either sleeping or in a deep slumber, being by him unseen, for that he desired no company, and when the Grobe, Lanula also seeking him, espied Palian, not knowing whether, and saluting him instead of Montelion, said: *What hast thou to say to me?* I have a matter of importance to discover, if your name be Montelion. He answered not, but with courteous had her say on. There is (said she) a Lady of great Reputation in this Court that beareth you deep affection, who committed her counsels to me (but with no intent I should disclose them) yet pitying her grief, and withal wishing your preferment, am thus bold to intercept your meditation, hoping that this news cannot be but gratefully accepted. I heartily thank you (quoth he) assuring you that I am every way as deeply in love as any, but with one so far my better, that fear to offend, maketh me silent; therefore let me know the Ladies name. It is Praxentia (said she). And to her (quoth he) I owe my Life, Love, Affections, and Liberty. Sir (said she) I am glad thereof, and if you will follow my directions, I will work so effectually that you shall enjoy her love, whatsoever saith the contrary. I will be ruled by you (quoth he) neither will I refuse any attempt to attain the same; therefore pray tell me where I may find you, and when in the evening I will come to you. My name is Lanula (said she) and you shall have me in the Lodgings over the Postern in the private Garden. So she departed, leaving him in a deep affliction what to do to enjoy her love, and how to do it without dishonour to himself and injury to Montelion, but that he thought impossible, entering into these meditations.

Now continue in my bay to all good success, that maketh me but a weak man to adventure such a task as may bring me to perpetual infamy. Now often hath my life been burdened by

Montelion

Montelions hand? and yet like a Frantick man forsake my friends to follow him: Could any thing have fallen out more miserable, then for me to hate on her that loveth another, and be the onely man that hath allwayes presented my good fortune: Shall I then cherish this love, or root it out of my heart, as a poison that will infect my soul, for the King her Father will never yield his consent, and which is worse, she will not love me, I will therefore leave it off, and salve the wound before it be past recovery, and rather abandon this Court, my Life, Countrey, and friends, then sue for love in another mans name.

Revolving many of these Cogitations, at last he escaped Montelion coming back from the Grove, unto whom he spake in this manner.

My Knight, as I lay slumbering on this Bank, my senses were greatly troubled with your remembrance; for to my thinking an ancient Lady taking me for you, told me; that a Lady of great Dignity did love me exceedingly, and that she came on purpose to know how I stood affected: further my Dream continued not, but awaking I espied you, and have uttered all to you: Now who this Lady should be I know not, unless it be the Princess Praxentia.

Montelion made this answer; what this should mean I know not, neither is it to be regarded; for Dreams are but idle phantasies, procured by the imagination of the Dreamer, thinking that of another, which he wisheth to himself; which is more likely, for the Princess were over-kind to place her love on so deserv'd a stranger as my self, and if she did so, it were in vain, for I cannot now become bond-slave, were it to the greatest Princess in the World: I speak not this as rejecting her courtesie, but as one that esteemeth himself altogether unworthy thereof: It may be (said Palion) though you account your self fortunate, yet you have not trust me, and therefore you conceal it. Not so (quoth he) I have uttered all I think, or ever intend: He was very glad to hear him say so, but made no show thereof, passing on the way between them and the Palace in such like communication together.

CHAP. XIX.

How *Palian* in a disguise had conference with *Praxenide*, who took him for *Montelion*.

BY this time *Palian* was gotten to his Chamber, being much troubled in his minde, striving to overcome his love, and yet to love, and attain her without hazarding his honour; but his Affections had the superiority, and those sparks of vertue that was but newly kindled in his Breast banished, and he resolved to try the uttermost issue, although it were in anothers name. Evening drawing nigh, he remembered his promise, which was to repare to the old Lady, and therefore thither he went, but so secretly as might be, where he found her staying for him, of whom he demanded what good news? then she shutting fast the doore, said: After I departed with you in the Garden, I went to the Princess and told her what speeches I had with you, which rejoyced her heart, willing me to let you understand, that it is not idle desire, immovable love, nor indiscreet intemperency that hath moved her to this liking, but the report of your valour, regard of your vertues, and the work that Nature hath wrought in her face; therefore she desires you to be constant, secret, and loyal, not to regard her love the less for being easily won, but to impute the same to Destiny, that hath ordained him (unknown) to that Dignity, who hath refused to match her self to the greatest Emperors in the world. By Heaven (said he) my heart is so tied to her in bonds of constant love that would she command me to clip it out, I would do it to fulfil her desire, and shew my duty.

Few words (said she) are best, and by reason of her Fathers displeasure, she dares not converse with you openly, but she hath yielded to be distressed by me: therefore late this night come to my Chamber, and I will get you the habit of the Gardener, in which disguise you may with safety pass through the Garden, and enter her Chamber. He yielding her many thanks departed, and she went and certified the Princess what she had determined, whose love being grown to a settled resolution, and

desires to take her of her disguise, gladly consented therunto, 91
thinking the time too tedious, company troublesome, and her
supper unlabory, to take the shortness of her shew affection. Pa-
lian at the time appointed went to Lanula, who had already pro-
bided his disguise, where with he apparell'd himself, and took her
directions to finde the entrance into her Chamber.

Palian being entred the Garden found the door shut, but Prax-
encia having a sight of him out of her window, came down herself
to open the same. His heart was so ravished with joy of her pre-
sence, that he could not speak, but humbling himself upon his
knee, said, Vertuous Lady, I humbly desire you to pardon this
my boldness, which I would never have undertaken, had not
some former hope animated me thereto: But finde it is your gra-
cious pleasure so much to honour my unworthiness. I humbly
give my heart to your disposition, which shall account it self ever
lastingly happy to be employed in your service.

Good Knight (quoth she) had not I been fully assured of your
vertues, I would never have admitted you this labour; there-
fore I accept your gift, and in exchange thereof will give you
mine, so that you promise me to use it honourably. Else (said he)
let me become the infamous reproach of all the world, let my
joys be turned into sorrows, my health into sickness, my pleasure
into pain, and all that I wish to prove my good, turn to a verita-
ble misery. Your protestations (dear Knight) do so farre ex-
ceed to overcome my yielding heart, that harbour no sus-
picion of your dissolapal meaning, but is fully assured, and
cannot harbour dissimulation, that is altogether distant from
vergue; therefore trusting you more then my self, I submit you
that labour I never before granted, which is, to receive you as
my chosen friend, trusting you will be as faithful as I desire, and
will not reward my labour with dissolapality.

So taking him by the hand, she led him up into her Chamber,
where many speeches passed betwixt them, he with earnestness in-
treating her consent to love him, and she binding him by many
oaths and vows to be constant. He durst not utter many speech-
es, lest he should be discovered, also his conscience being guilty,
which held him from boldness, and though peradventure she would
have taken any thing in good part, yet fear to discover himself did

make him think no such matter; but in his behaviour to her as he could frame himself to the estate of Montelion, which pleased her well, who although she was very affectionate to her self, yet she imputed his coloured modesty to vertue, and his dissimulation to pure modesty; that by this conference he was fully assured of her love, and she of his loyalty, being now constrained by reason of the dayes approach to break off their communication, reserving their next meeting to Lanchues direction: parting with many courteous farewells, she fully contented, he somewhat discontented, that he had attained that labour in another mans name, which if he might attain as proper to himself, he should have deemed himself most happy: being clogged with these cogitations he got to Lanchues Chamber, to whom he discovered his footmats success, telling him but not in the evening he would come to her to know the Princesse's pleasure, and her direction to speak with her another time.

CHAP. XX.

How Montelion was in love with Praxentia; how he was prevented by Palian of speaking to her, who in disguise lay with her.

In the morning early the Princesse sought her rest, and though she had slept but little that night, yet she was loath to be accused of sloath, apparelled her self, framing a more then ordinary solemne countenance (for her minde was more at ease) she attended the Emperors in company of other Ladies, and it so fell out that day that the Emperour with the Dukes of the Land, dined with Pericles, Montelion, and Palian, who fell out according to her wish, that she might behold her beloved knight with a succeeding view, and he was no less glad then we, that he might see her on whom his heart was fixed: and every one saving Pericles and Montelion, had their hearts willing to Dispose, onely they two rested say, which was easily to be observed, and easily noted by Praxentia with one glance, and Palian with another.

All Winter time Praxentiaes Eyes were fixed on Montelion, and Palians on hers, bending colour with a beauteous smile.

How Montelion was in love with Praxentia

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his into many cogitations, sometimes thinking he disdained to
look on her openly, who had shewn her self so kind in secret, then
he thought it was fear to discover her love (which is easily ob-
served by the Eyes) but when again she saw he made no regard
to her, her colour often changed, sometimes with grief, some-
times with anger, sometimes with fear, striking her eyes stedfast-
ly on him, then glancing about to see if any noted her. Palian
minded her, and well understood her meaning, as earnestly no-
ting her behaviour as she did Montelions, often changing his
countenance, sometimes with fear to be seen, and then with a
jealous conceit, then with an amorous thought, and then again
with accusing himself of dishonest dealing both towards her and
him.

Pierces minde was most at leisure to note all, which she per-
formed with diligence: and seeing their eyes placed on several
objects, she thought there was as contrary a sympathy in their
Affections, well perceiving Palian's deceit, Prances's dislike,
and Montelions careless regard of either; by a pithy token, un-
seen of any, she gave her Brother an instance thereof; he quickly
conceived her meaning, and jumped with her in opinion, all win-
ner time noting them; which being past, and music filling the
Room with pleasant harmony, Pericles pulling Montelion by
the sleeve, whispered these words softly in his ear: Friend, rouse
your self from this sad dump, and behold how you are noted: On
my life the Princess is in love with you, and if it be so, you may
account your self most happy.

My Lord (replied he) you are disposed to sell, no such good
fortune will fall to to me, yet if it did, I know I should never en-
joy it. Willy (quoth he) had you but seen so much as I, and
noted her looks, you would thin so too: Follow my counsel, do
but try, and you shall finde it so: What if she were Empress of
the whole world, would you not venture? were she not the bet-
ter to be beloved, and have not you the privilege so ill past that
she would refuse your love? all the good you have, is her Fa-
vours dislike; but fear not that, Time may bring things wished
for good effect: do but follow my counsel so this time, and af-
ter I will tell you more.

By this time the music was ended, and Montelion call'd

How Montelion was in love with the Princess and how he was

on Praxentia, who steadfastly looked on him, her heart being so much grieved with contrariety of thoughts, that the water was ready to overflow her eyes. When Montelion saw that, he presently began to conceive some hope, and by little and little, love stole the possession of his heart; withal, he remembered what Palian had before said unto him, all this seemed likelihood that it was so. As he continued in these thoughts, and with more boldness had viewed her well (whose eyes were never off him) the Quicke began to sound again, and the old Emperour of Persia being pleasant, and merry with feasting, took the Emperess by the hand to dance; Pericles seeing that, took Piera; then said the Emperour, is there none will make a third? Piera, desirous to shew Montelion any favour, desired him to do it. But he with mildness made a refusal, in regard of his duty to the Emperour. But suddenly Palian stepped up, and took Praxentia to dance with him, who being of a milde behaviour refused not, and the rather, that none should note her affection to Montelion; which she assured her self, he could not call in question.

Montelion was exceedingly vexed to be so prevented; yet smothered the same with a pleasant countenance. The Quicke being ended, the Emperour with the Emperess departed, leaving them to their Recreation. When Palian began to be disquieted, with fear lest Montelion by conference with Praxentia, should discover his last deceit, and he by that means be prevented of all future hope, therefore he used such means that Montelion could have no conference with her, which he by reason of his fear, durst not seek, nor she expect, thinking to have a time of more conference to meet.

All this time, Montelion did but entangle himself in the snares of affection. Still liking to like, and liking to love; and the more he loved, the more he loved; being for that time contented to love, so other hope he attained not, by reason of Palian's prevention, and his own fear to be accounted bold, which she thought she might well impute to his mean estate. The time of departure being come, and every one ready to bid adieu, Praxentia gave him a signe of her love, with a modest, gentle, and kind look, and he her of his duty, with low courtesie.

Every one parted, Praxentia troubled with doubt of the could

not tell what; for weighing his behavio^r, she could not compare it to be like the behavio^r of an assured lover; neither could she account it disdain, or want of government, for she knew him well; nor want of audacity, for he was bold enough in other matters; nor to inconsistency, for she could not perceive his looks bent upon any other. Troubled with a multitude of these passions, by reason of the truth, she made the best construction of all things, wishing Palian had been farther off that day, whom she thought of purpose had intercepted their conference. But to ease her of these troubled cogitations, Lanula comes in with a message from Palian, who as soon as the company was parted, went to her, and noting with what little respect Montelion had that day regarded her, he thought some mischief might cross his further intent, and fearing withal lest she should send to him, he sent this message. That with all humility, he desired her not to misconceive his meaning; for the little respect he gave to her, was with no other intent but to avoid suspicion, his heart being entirely bound in all duty to her command. This message pleased her well, and banished all mist of malice from her heart, desiring with Lanula for a convenient time to have conference with him.

Montelion now had taken such a view of her beauty, that he yielded to be loves thral, and according to his disordered minde, was pleased with nothing but solitariness, in silence to meditate upon his misfortune, on his love, and on his unskillfulness to attain thereto; on Palian's prevention, on his unknown state, and on his bowed journey in search of Constantia: being troubled with such contrarieties, that he could not resolve upon any thing, trying his senses with meditation, wearping his heart with grief, and weakning his body with abstinence, void of means hope, or comfort; he thought to write, but he wanted a secret messenger; then he thought he thought himself to speak to her, but he feared a denial would be his reward, and that would be worse then death.

Thus troubled in minde he betak himself to rest, scarce able to give his eyes one minutes sleep until morning, and then again as void of comfort as if he dreamed of a thousand impossibilities, neither able by the counsel of Pericles, nor otherwise, to devise a means to speak; for his love was now so violent, that it could

permanent, Fortune intending quickly to overturn the same, Palian by indirect policy, dealt so cunningly, that by often discourse unto her, won her to such an absolute content, that she rested wholly at his disposition, never coming to her but in secret, and so late that all lights were out: besides the old Lady first taking him for Montelion, never made question but that it was he, by which means he alwayes passed undiscrid, and she told all her secrets unto him, that whatsoever he would desire she performed, and all that he perswaded her to was but means to prevent his disposall, perswading her to keep her Chamber for many dayes: so that contrary to her expectation, with disempe-
nature of watching, and keeping her self in the close room, she began to wax sickly, which Lanula made known to him, appoint-
ing him the next day to come to her, and he should know when a-
gain to visit her, and in the mean time she had wrought so effe-
tual with the Emperoz and Emperess, as they had appointed her
to be her keeper, and none to come at her but upon her sufferance,
which pleased the Princess well. Night being come Palian
went to Lanulaes Chamber, where he found her, declaring all
that had hapned, appointing him that Night to come thither: Lanula returning, would not make known his coming to her that
night, because she should not break her sleep.

At the time appointed Palian was in the Garden, and Lanula
ready to receive him, conducting him up the stairs to the Princess
Chamber, who was then in her Bed and fast asleep: he seating
himself down by her, although the Lights were out, yet by the
brightness of the Moon, whose splendor shined clear upon the
Bed, he might take a view of her, who by reason of the heat, lay
with all the Curtains folded, and the Covering that lay upon her
so thin, that the full proportion of her delicate body might easily
be seen, the same being turned down below her waste, her Neck
naked, and her Ivory Breasts passing description laying forth
their beauties, her Armes spread one above her head, the other
down by her side.

Palian beholding this pleasant sight (which was able to ra-
vish the senses of a modest beholder, that) his heart was so en-
flamed as he had much ado to abstain from touching that beauty,
he had not long, but being troubled with some lumbering
motion,

not on, awaked, and espying one so near her Bed side, was ready to give a shriek, but with more regard noting his habit, she knew him, withdrawing her self from his sight, until he entreated her to pardon his boldness, protesting his intent was not to disquiet her.

I am not disgrated (quoth she) now I know you, but I marvel I was not acquainted with your coming, it is Lancelots doings hath used me thus immodestly, I humbly beseech you (quoth he) take no offence thereat, but pardon us both, the greatest fault being mine, for which I am contented to abide any punishment. Your punishment (said she) cannot be great, your offence being done to me that love you more then my self, having given my self to you, and if I have discovered what modestly will not permit, the offence being procured by you, you may pardon it. The sight (quoth he) can procure no offence, for it hurteth not, therefore in kissing I committed no injury; but where there is mutual love, and consent in love, there nothing can breed offence but dishonour, which is as far from me as impossibilities, then I can no way offend but in that, and in that I will never offend. All this may be granted (quoth she) in you, but not in me; for I count it a great offence to be touched, and nothing more contrary to perfect vertue.

You cannot offend (quoth he) in that to me, for having given your self mine, why should I not both see, touch, and enjoy you the first being granted, the last cannot be denied. It is not the outward action that unsettleth the heart, but the inward consent. I deny you not (quoth she) all that I have is yours by my own consent and free gift, yet you must forbear possession until the bargain be confirmed by witnesses, other wise your title is not good. Yes (said he) my title is better by your gift, then by a thousand witnesses; for if you deny, they cannot avail me, therefore since you cannot deny me interest, yield me possession.

These words were intermingled with many kisses and embraces, able to stir Affection to the height; so that knowing his meaning by his words, she said: Dear Knight, I understand your meaning, which I will not, nor cannot grant, but in any thing else you shall command me, onely I desire, and am resolved to preserve my virginity without blemish; therefore good

Knights request not that; giving so much as you cannot. I am
more, my life, my company, my love, and all is at your disposal;
onely I challenge you as you are a Knight not to dis-
miss my vertue.

Notwithstanding he so much prevailed with her at last, that
she gave her consent he should the next night be joynd to her in
marriage by such means as she would compass, and then he should
without denial attain his desire.

This contented him not, but he grew to such importunate re-
quests, intermingled with such oaths and protestations, being
such as no reasonable man would have demanded, and framing in
himself such a kinde of desperate behaviour that she could not tell
how to deny him, and at last calling Lanula unto her, she whispe-
red a few words in her ear, whereupon drawing the Curtings,
she departed the Chamber.

Palian seeing that, put off his apparel, and laid himself down
by her, folding her delicate body in his Armes, with sweet im-
braces expressing both their loves, but she kept her words, not-
withstanding he did what else he desired, yet she reserved her Vir-
ginity inviolable; adjuring him by so many entreaties so to
leave that unattempted, often intermingling her words with such
effusion of tears, that the hardest heart would have yielded unto
her, promising that if she did not compass her marriage the next
night, that he should assuredly attain his desire, though she hazar-
ded her self to accomplish it.

In these and such like speeches, the night was unawares to
them overpast, and the necessity of the time forced his departure,
that taking his leave of her, with many ceremonious farewells, he
apparelled himself, and left her to meditate on that which had past
between them.

